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New round of PUA/FPUC to open

The CNMI Department of Labor will begin accepting applications for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation as a result of COVID-19 for affected workers in the CNMI starting June 1, 2021, through Sept. 4, 2021. This new application period is authorized under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

What is PUA?

The PUA program provides temporary benefits to individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of COVID-19. The PUA program, through the American Rescue Plan Act, provides eligible applicants in the CNMI with 25 additional weeks of unemployment benefits starting June 1, 2021. See PUA on Page 4

CUC OKs lease terms for 1.5MW power plant

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors approved Friday the lease terms of a draft agreement between CUC and the Commonwealth Ports Authority over CUC's plan to build a 1.5-megawatt

power plant on CPA property to be used during disasters or emergencies.

In recognition of the pending insurance requirements that is subject to further negotiation between CUC and CPA, the CUC board gave the CUC management full See CUC on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 8:00pm, May 30, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **55%**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	21,994
Fully Vaccinated:	19,775
Moderna	
Initiated:	3,854
Fully Vaccinated:	3,095
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	282

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,154	2	8,156
Recovered	7,961	1	7,962
Active	53	2	55
Deaths	139	0	139
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	164,880		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	183	0	183
Traced via Travel Screening	147	0	147
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	71		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



REMEMBERING THE BATTLE FOR KASTIYE PLATEAU

Lt. Zack Ader and members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457 display a plaque of appreciation that the VFW presented to the Seebies last May 25 at the VFW Post 3457 headquarters in Garapan to commemorate Memorial Day.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Probe on Torres' expenditures being revived

» House Democrats bring forward impeachment talks; Bautista said it's another smear campaign

By IVA MAURIN
ivamaurin@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

An investigation into Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' public expenditures is being resuscitated at the See PROBE on Page 4

Remembering the fallen

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

The CNMI joins the rest of the nation today in honoring

those who sacrificed their lives to protect the country through military service, with the Office of the Gov- See FALLEN on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

The Office of the Saipan Mayor donated over 25 pairs of Nike sneakers to Karidat.

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BUSINESS

United expands its Hawaii pre-clearance program to include more customers.

PAGE 11



ASIA

The Chinese city of Guangzhou shut down a neighborhood following an upsurge in infections.

PAGE 13



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

More variants ID'd in Guam

The Department of Public Health and Social Services in Guam received Friday an additional set of results from virus samples collected in Guam that have undergone genome sequencing by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Virus samples were collected between March 2021 and April 2021. To date, a total of 116 SARS-CoV-2 virus samples have been submitted to the CDC for genome sequencing.

DPHSS received the fourth set of results from the CDC on May 28. Of the 25 results, 17 cases were identified as Variants of Concern and one case was identified as a Variant of Interest. The breakdown is as follows: 16 were identified as B.1.1.7 or the U.K. variant, one was identified as the B.1.351 or the South African variant, and one was identified as the B.1.617.2 or the India variant.

The B.1.617.2, or the India variant, is a Variant of Interest, which has the potential for reduced neutralization by some

monoclonal antibodies and post-vaccination or previous COVID-19 infections.

Of the 17 samples confirmed as VOCs and one as a VOI, five were travel-related cases and 13 had no known travel history. Of the five travel-related cases, three were identified in the government of Guam quarantine facility. In accordance with DPHSS protocol, the three travelers were isolated in the government isolation facility, and all close contacts to these travelers were quarantined in the QFAC for 14 days.

Additionally, of the 18 cases with variants detected, 13 were identified from two separate community clusters, and all were identified to have been infected with the B.1.1.7 or the U.K. variant. Of the five travel-related cases, three were identified with the B.1.1.7 or the U.K. variant, one was identified with the B.1.351 or the South African variant, and one with the B.1.617.2 or India variant. (PR)

Torres will present expenditure plan for \$481.87M ARPA funding to Legislature

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres will hold a presentation this Friday to the Legislature to share his expenditure plan for the \$481.87-million American Rescue Plan Act funding that the administration recently received.

Torres will also be inviting the municipality mayors and the Judiciary to the presentation, he said at a radio news briefing Friday.

The presentation will also show the guidelines that need to be followed in spending these ARPA funds.

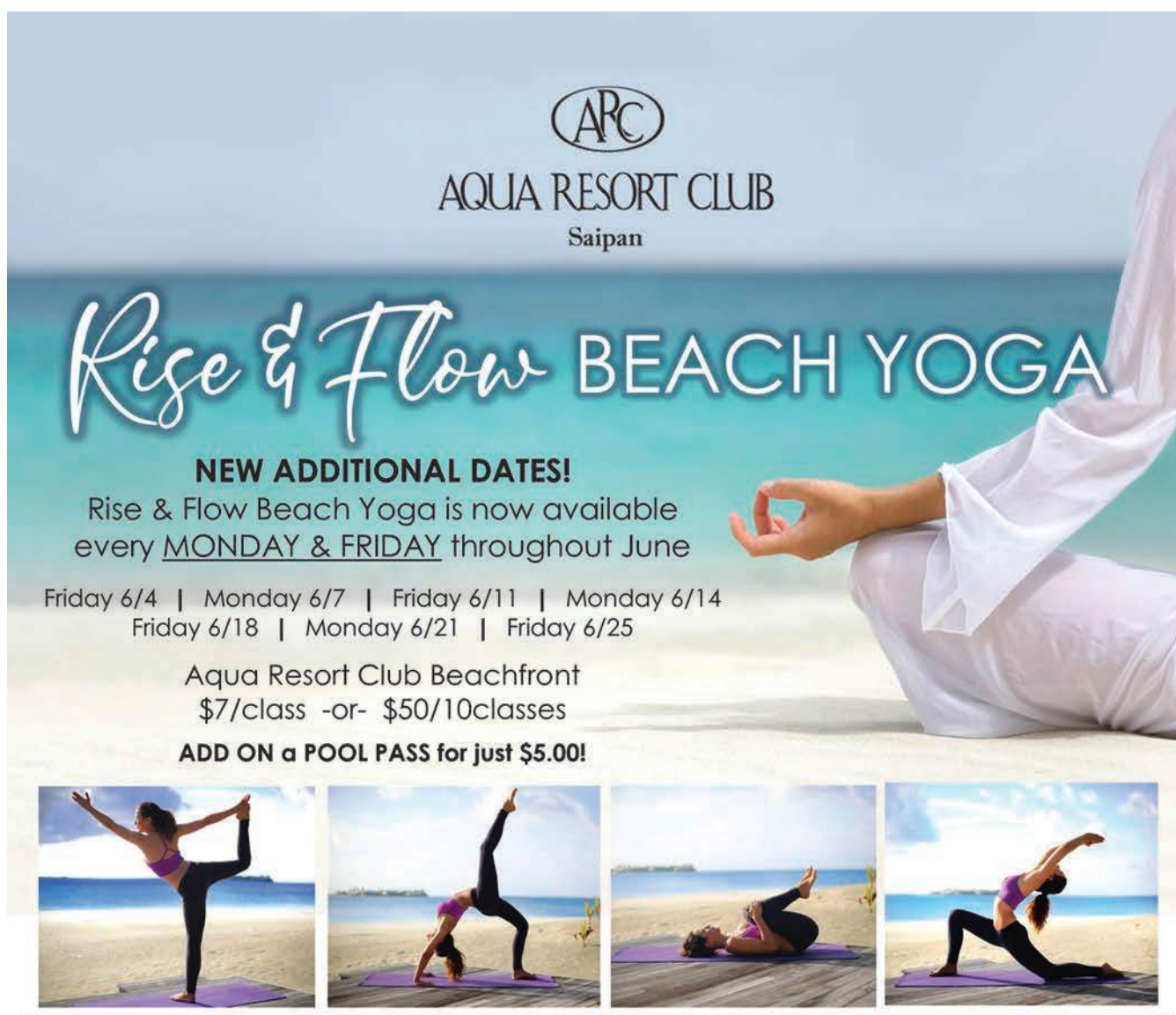
The governor said a lot of departments, entities, non-profits, businesses in the com-

munity, and different government branches are also asking for assistance. "We do have guidelines that we need to follow," he pointed out.

Torres said one of the reasons why he created the Infrastructure Recovery Program is to assist the departments on these programs and projects. "It all depends on what projects need to be rolled out," said the governor, adding that he expects these funds to start rolling out within a month.

Torres said there's different costs, different amounts for different projects.

Torres said the goal is to spend this money as fast as they can, while making sure that the guidelines are followed.




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Memorial Day

REMEMBER AND HONOR!

From the management and staff of

Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Sablan: Internet gaming an avenue for money laundering

By IVA MAURIN

iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) believes that internet gaming is an avenue for money laundering and is opposing a request for House Bill 22-47, or the Internet Gaming Act of 2021, to be pulled out from the Gaming Committee so the full House of Representatives could act on it.

Confronted by the bill's author, Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan), during recess while the House was on a special session last Friday, Sablan raised a concern that allowing internet gaming in the CNMI could open the floodgates to money laundering.

During the session, Guerrero argued that with the casino industry remaining closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, internet gaming could generate revenue for the CNMI, and that there are investors wanting to establish this type of gaming on island.

"This is revenue generating and...[internet] gaming is the key right now because of the pandemic," Guerrero said. "This is something that we need to pass. ...This is another form [of gaming] that we should tap because there's a lot of investors willing to open [internet] gaming, but [in the] absence of a piece of legislation, no investors would want to invest here in the CNMI. This is something that we should look thoroughly."

H.B. 22-47 describes internet gaming as the conduct of gambling games through the use of communication technology that allows a person, using money, checks,

electronic checks, electronic money transfers, credit cards or debit cards, to place bets or wagers related to a game.

The bill, first introduced in the 21st Legislature as H.B. 21-31 by then former vice speaker Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero, also calls for geolocation or security measures to prevent those living in senatorial districts where internet gambling is not authorized from accessing it.

House Gaming Committee chair Rep. Edwin Propst (D-Saipan), in response, asked Guerrero to instead meet after the special session to discuss any concerns pertaining to the bill.

"The Gaming Committee is proceeding very cautiously, in the wake of a 93-page FinCen [Financial Crimes Enforcement Network] report, and all the allegations that we have received, all the problems that we have right now with this casino, who is one of the pushers for this. I am concerned," Propst added.

Guerrero, for his part, stressed that he is not alluding to the casino industry but investors beside the casino.

"This casino industry that we have, it's a done deal, but these are other investors not pertaining to the casino industry that are wanting to establish the gaming here in the CNMI. They're coming in and wanting to see what they can to have this [internet] gaming."

"...This bill is not by IPI [Imperial Pacific International], this is a product of the author itself," he added.

Sablan insists that the bill is from IPI, and, in a privilege speech, pointed out that inter-

net gaming is "very controversial" and one which has been "expressly requested by IPI in their communications" to the body, which is now the subject of an oversight of the Gaming Committee. "There are serious

concerns that are raised by this internet gaming bill that were concerns in the last legislature. Those issues have not gone away and they are the subject of investigation right now."

Sablan, who also serves as

House Gaming Committee vice chair, reiterated that the conversation regarding H.B. 22-47 be continued at the "appropriate venue"—that is at the Gaming Committee, which is scheduled to meet soon.



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Applications may be submitted the following ways: **1.** Drop off at one of our HS Offices **2.** Visit a Pop-Up Recruitment Site **3.** Send it by email



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hsehs@cnmipss.org

*Early Head Start is currently only offered on Saipan.

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THEY LIVE IN OUR HEARTS ALWAYS

IN CELEBRATION OF MEMORIAL DAY

Let Memorial Day be a day to count our blessings and remember those who serve to protect our country and our freedom. We are forever grateful for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. May their courage and dedication never be forgotten.

**From the
Office of Senate President
Jude Untalan Hofschneider
and the Members
of the 22nd Senate
Commonwealth Legislature**

CUC

From Page 1

authority to enter into the lease agreement once negotiations are finalized, and with the concurrence of CUC board chair Miranda V. Manglona.

PUA

From Page 1

ing March 14, 2021 to Sept. 4, 2021.

What is FPUC?

Under ARPA, for weeks of unemployment beginning after March 13, 2021, and ending on or before Sept. 4, 2021, an individual collecting PUA may collect a \$300 FPUC payment per week.

Who can apply for PUA/FPUC?

Due to the extensive nature of the eligibility conditions and requirements for PUA, consult the “PUA/FPUC Benefits Rights Information Handbook” found on the CNMI Department of Labor’s website, <http://www.marianaslabor.net>, under “Forms and Publications” for details.

APPLICATION FILING DATES

Individuals may apply for PUA if they have had a week(s) of full or partial unemployment on or after March 14, 2021 through Sept. 4, 2021, as a result of COVID-19. Individuals may file applications for PUA one week from the date of this announcement, starting June 1, 2021, and ending Sept. 4, 2021.

How and where to apply

ONLINE: Claimants may apply for PUA either online or in person. Submit a PUA application online at www.hiremarianas.com.

PAPER: PUA applications and other forms may also be obtained and submitted at either of the following location(s):

Saipan:

Department of Labor
Division of Employment Services
Building # 1334, Ascencion Dr.
Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950

Rota:

Northern Marianas College
Room #A2
Rota, MP 96951

Tinian:

Department of Labor
Edu’s Plaza, 1st Floor

It was director Janice Tenorio who offered the motion after the directors held an executive session with their legal counsel, assistant attorney general Jose Mafnas Jr.

Manglona presided over Friday’s special board meeting. Other directors present were Jovita Paulino and

San Jose Village, Tinian, MP 96952

*Paper Application Submission Instructions: Due to COVID-19 precautionary measures, the Saipan PUA Program is strictly implementing the following application submission schedule from June 1, 2021 to Sept. 4, 2021 (Monday - Friday) from 8am to 4pm:

Monday: Only accepting paper application submissions for last names “A” to “C”

Tuesday: Only accepting paper application submissions for last names “D” to “H”

Wednesday: Only accepting paper application submissions for last names “I” to “M”

Thursday: Only accepting paper application submissions for last names “N” to “R”

Friday: Only accepting paper application submissions for last names “S” to “Z”

Important Notes

In consideration of observed holidays or the application deadline falling on a Saturday, the department will be accepting applications on the following business day.

Required documents

Individuals filing a new PUA application on or after Jan. 31, 2021 (regardless of whether the claim is backdated), are required to provide documentation within 21 days of the application or the date the individual is directed to submit the documentation by CNMI DOL, whichever is later.

Individuals who applied for PUA before Jan. 31, 2021, and receive a payment of PUA on or after Dec. 27, 2020 (regardless of which week ending date is being paid), are required to provide documentation substantiating employment or self-employment, or the planned commencement of employment or self-employment, within 90 days of the application or when directed to submit documentation by CNMI DOL, whichever is later.

To receive PUA, individuals must submit in-person or upload

Aubrey Hocog.

In her presentation before the board, CUC acting executive director Betty Terlaje said CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho started this process a while ago and “we’re at the kind of the tail end of this transaction.” Terlaje said she and Mafnas

online the following: (1) A government issued picture identification (Driver’s license, passport, alien registration card, etc.), (2) Social Security Card number, (3) If applicable, copies of the most recent federal income tax form(s), check stubs, and other proof of earnings, and (4) If applicable, evidence of self-employment earnings, business license, including financial documents such as 2017 Federal/CNMI income tax forms, profit and loss statement, and proof of business loss due to the disaster.

All inquiries

Individuals who have questions about the PUA/FPUC programs are encouraged to email info@puamarianas.com or call any of the following numbers between 8am and 4 pm, Monday – Friday, except on holidays.

■ **Saipan:** (670) 322-8870/71/72/73/74

■ **Rota:** (670) 989-9001

■ **Tinian:** (670) 989-9000 or 433-0889

Further information

Individuals who are determined eligible for PUA must file weekly claim certifications (to demonstrate their continued eligibility) either in person or online by using any of the filing methods described above. Continued eligibility is determined on a week-by-week basis. Please consult the “PUA/FPUC Benefits Rights Information Handbook” found on the CNMI Department of Labor’s website at: <http://www.marianaslabor.net>, under “Forms and Publications” for details.

Individuals who willfully conceal material facts or knowingly making false statement(s) to obtain PUA to which they are not entitled will be required to repay all benefits fraudulently collected and may be subject to prosecution under 18 U.S.C. 1001.

Fraud hotline

Individuals are encouraged to call 670-989-9095 to report any perceived instances of wrongdoing or fraud pertaining to the PUA/FPUC programs. **(PR)**

different units.

“On Memorial Day, I take time to think of the people I served with who are no longer with us. The closest person I lost while serving was Charles Joseph Fishpaw from West Virginia. ...I found out he passed after we returned from back-to-back deployments. He became a statistic as one of the 22 soldiers who take their lives every day. I honor his commitment to our nation, to his family, and his friends,” said Ruszala.

It has been 26 years since Fishpaw’s passing, and Ruszala still feels the sorrow of his loss. He cherishes Fishpaw’s memory as a fellow soldier and a friend.

have been going back and forth with CPA on this matter in the last couple of weeks.

Under this project, CUC is going to procure a 1.5-megawatt engine to primarily power the water infrastructure on the island.

Right now, there are about 65-67 active wells in the Isley Airport and Obyan areas. Terlaje said these wells provide water to the southern part of the island and serve about 4,000 to 6,000 households. She added, though, that they can go further than that. For instance, after Super Typhon Yutu struck in 2018, CUC used the wells to fill up some

of the As Terlaje tank that would then supply water to Chalan Laulau and Gualo Rai areas.

She said the plan is to build Power Plant 3 and its engine is going to be funded by the U.S. Department of Interior. Terlaje said there are some funds are also available for the setup and the installation of the engine.

She said the project’s completion time is the end of this September because they have deadlines for the grant.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

PROBE

From Page 1

Legislature, with House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee chair Rep. Celina Babauta (D-Saipan) raising talks about impeachment during the House session last Friday on Capital Hill.

Babauta appealed to House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) to refer to the JGO committee documents and report submitted by Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) on the governor’s “public expenditures, violations of law, [and] areas of abuse,” as well as recommendations for oversight and reform.

The report, prepared by the House minority bloc in the 21st Legislature, was submitted on Jan. 6, 2021.

“I continue to receive information on a weekly, if not daily basis, that government documents and properties are continuously being destroyed in an attempt perhaps to hide things or conceal evidence, so your most expeditious referral of documents that have just been introduced would be most appreciated,” Babauta said.

The JGO chair added that it would be the most sensible action the body can take, and that it is the duty of the committee to have that oversight and review of actions of government officials in the course of their duties.

“It is my purpose to determine whether the governor’s actions warrant impeachment by the House and removal by the Senate. Those judgments are constitutionally reserved for and entrusted to the legislative branch. Violations of statutes, embezzlement, unjust enrichment, and obstruction of justice by any citizen and by whatever title or office they hold are profoundly serious matters,” she added.

Article 2, Section 8 of the CNMI Constitution grants the Legislature authority to impeach executives and judicial officers of the Commonwealth subject to impeachment under the Constitution, where the House of Representatives may initiate impeachment proceedings by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members, and where the Senate may convict after hearing, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members.

In a separate interview, press secretary Kevin Bautista said the administration welcomes and has cooperated with all legitimate inquiries about the issue, but added that the timeliness of the inquiry is questionable, and the process of submitting a report during the miscellaneous section of the

agenda, suspect.

“The findings from last year’s special committee report showed no finding of consequence. This has been addressed and covered multiple times. This is another blatant political attempt by the Democrats to smear the governor and this administration, while he continues to lead the work of rebuilding our economy and our COVID-19 response, which has kept the CNMI among the safest places in the world,” Bautista added.

A bipartisan special committee was already formed last year, transferring oversight to the Office of the Public Auditor, which Bautista stressed is the appropriate agency to review and investigate such matters.

“The Office of the Governor and the Department of Finance have co-operated fully in the past with last year’s Special Committee’s inquiries and hearings. The findings of the Special Committee’s draft report showed no finding of consequence. The report that was submitted was from a political faction from the last Legislature,” he said. “The people elect their public officials to legislate and help the community. So far, in 2021, Gov. Torres, Lt. Gov. [Arnold] Palacios, the House minority, the Senate leadership, the Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors, and the COVID-19 Task Force have been out there keeping people safe, beautifying public areas, and rebuilding the economy.”

Bautista also stated that on the flip side, Democrats in the House have kept revenue-generating bills stuck in committee and have focused only on U.S. mainland issues such as the D.C. statehood initiative that have no bearing or benefit to people in the CNMI.

“The governor and lieutenant governor continue to work with the legislative leadership in both houses to come up with solutions that actually benefit our islands. It’s unfortunate that they continue to focus on an issue from their campaign that has already been resolved by a bipartisan committee from the last Legislature,” he added.

The probe into Torres’ expenditures was reopened by the House JGO last April. In 2019, the 21st Legislature House minority bloc called to investigate allegations of public corruption, fraud, waste, and abuse of public funds by the governor. The bipartisan Special Committee on Fiscal Review of Executive Expenditures was established in July 2020 to review documents and materials received, but was unable to reach a decision, according to then-committee chair Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan).

FALLEN

From Page 1

ernor and the Office of Veterans Affairs holding a CNMI Memorial Day event at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi this morning.

While Memorial Day is officially a one-day commemoration, the memories of those lost lives on past Monday.

Gina Tomokane remembers her father, Antonio Cepeda Tomokane, who served in the U.S. Army for 21 years and was a Vietnam War veteran. She describes him as a great father and a great man—honorable, humble, kind, and the type of man

“to give his last dollars to anyone that would ask.”

“It’s not an easy job to leave your family, go to war, and come back, yet they still do that to honor and protect their country,” said Tomokane.

Brad Ruszala, District VI commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Pacific Areas, remembers his friend, Charles Joseph Fishpaw from West Virginia, with whom he went through Basic Training and served alongside in many parts of the world. Ruszala and Fishpaw volunteered to join the 9th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed the “Manchus,” and served together in missions in Southwest Asia; Mogadishu, Somalia; and Cuba as part of

FAC remains the same in June

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Fuel Adjustment Charge remains at \$0.17341 per kilowatt-hour in June.

Although there has been a slight increase in the Mean of Platts Singapore, or MOPS, monthly pricing from April 2021 to June 2021 as notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc., the increase did not equal or exceed a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric kWh rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the MOPS monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate. *(PR)*



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Public invited to Memorial Day today

The Office of the Governor and the Office of Veterans Affairs invite all military service-members, military families, and the public to attend the CNMI Memorial Day event today, May 31, 2021, at 9am at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi. Gates open at 7:30am. The community is reminded to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines at the event. Temperature screening will be present on-site. *(PR)*

Notice to weightlifters

Weightlifters and those interested in weightlifting are being informed that a special meeting will be held on Saturday, June 5, 2021, at 9am, at the Oleai Sports Complex, Ada Gymnasium conference room. This meeting will focus on the 2022 Mini-Pacific Games, eligibility to compete, training facility, and other issues. If you are a weightlifter or interested in the sport of weightlifting, please attend. Do not miss this meeting if you are interested in competing or representing the CNMI in weightlifting competitions. *(PR)*



Memorial Day is the day that's set aside to remember with gratitude and pride all those who served and died for our country and our freedom.

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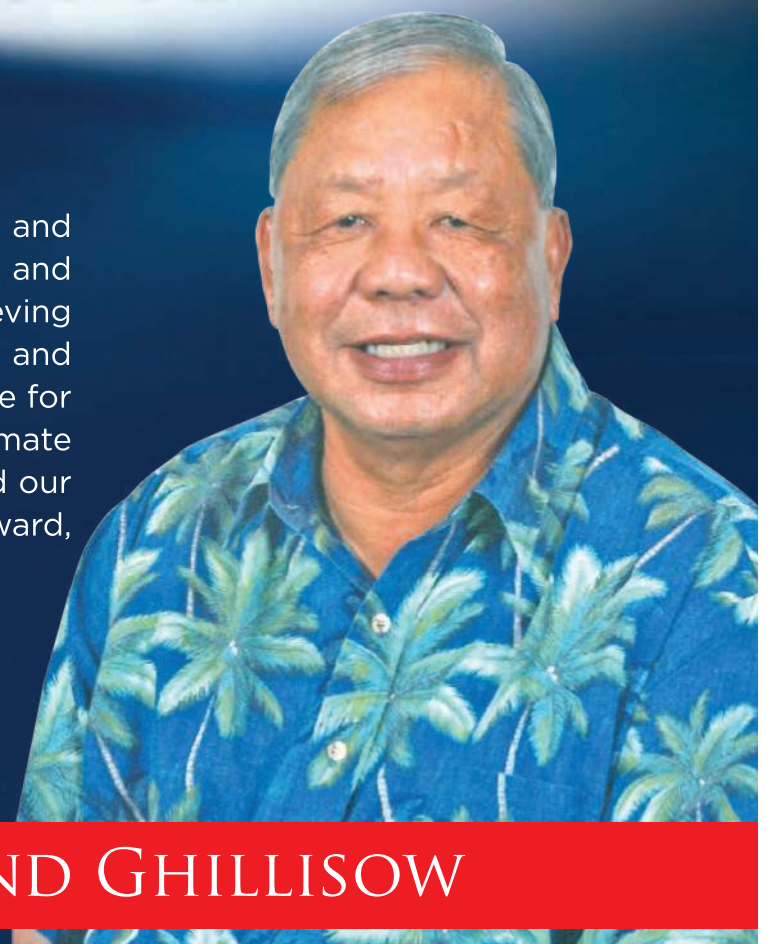
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H A P P Y — MEMORIAL DAY R E M E M B E R & H O N O R

Let us all take a moment to pay tribute to all the brave servicemen and women who are still serving in our United States Armed Forces, and especially to all our fallen heroes and their families who are still grieving and praying this Memorial Day. We express our deepest appreciation and gratitude for the selfless sacrifice they have made and continue to make for the freedom and security of peace we all cherish today. Your ultimate sacrifices will never be forgotten. We are here today, we live today, and our heroes will live on forever in our hearts and minds. As our life moves forward, we will never forget and will continue to pray and honor our heroes.

May God bless you and your family.

David M. Apatang
Mayor of Saipan and staff



THANK YOU, SI YU'US MA'ASE, AND GHILLISOW

Mayor's office donates 25 pairs of sneakers to Karidat

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Saipan Mayor donated over 25 pairs of Nike sneakers to Karidat Social Services last Friday, thanks to the help of Nike employees who work at the company's headquarters in Beaverton, Oregon.

Karidat executive director Lauri Ogumoro and 2021 Miss Marianas Savannah Lyn Delos Santos joined Mayor David M. Apatang at the turn-

over ceremony at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

It was learned at the ceremony that Nike employee Carisa Rudolf worked with a friend to put together the box of Nike sneakers and shipped the donation to the Saipan Mayor's Office, which then donated the shoes to Karidat.

"I am sure this wonderful donation would bring everlasting smiles on many young faces that we regularly see as part of our charitable mission," said Ogumoro.



"The act of giving, although it sounds very simple, actually has a lasting effect on the recipient, and that is our primary

From left, 2021 Miss Marianas Savannah Lyn Delos Santos, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Karidat Social Services executive director Lauri Ogumoro, and special assistant to the mayor Henry Hofschneider hold up some of the Nike sneakers donated to Karidat at the Saipan Mayor's Office last Friday.

JOSHUA SANTOS

work as caring citizens of this very beautiful island that we call home," said Delos Santos, who is also Karidat's newest human trafficking outreach

specialist in addition to being this year's Miss Marianas.

Apatang thanked Saipan's friends at Nike HQ, and welcomed them to visit the island. "I want to thank our friend in Beaverton who coordinated with Ms. Rudolf in getting the donation shipped to Saipan. ... I invite Ms. Rudolf and her friend to visit Saipan soon, and meet some of the precious young kids that would be getting a new pair of Nike sports shoes," said Apatang.

The donation of a box of sneakers was an initiative of Nike employees.

Kagman High School recognizes 117 graduates

Kagman High School bade farewell to 117 seniors in the afternoon of May 26, as the Ayuyu Class of 2021 received their diplomas in a drive-thru ceremony held right at the main entrance of the school—the center point of Kagman High School's famous loop road.

As the Class of 2021 individually made their entrance to receive their certificates of graduation, hundred of



CINDY MARIE BALATAYO INDALECIO
Board of Education
Awardee
Valedictorian



SEIJI MAGA'LAHI SUZUKI GONZALES
Commissioner of
Education Awardee
Salutatorian

residents cheered on and applauded them. These residents waited for hours by the roadside leading to the school. They have set up tents and barbecue pits, and played lively music to celebrate with the graduating students.

Valedictorian for the Ayuyu Class of 2021 is Cindy Marie Balatayo Indalecio. She is also the recipient of the Board of

Education Award. BOE chair Andrew Orsini and board members Antonio Borja, Maisie B. Tenorio and Gregory Borja presented the award.

Salutatorian is Seiji Maga'lahi Suzuki Gonzales. He is the recipient of the Commissioner of Education Award. He received the award from Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada himself.

Completing the top 10 are: (3) Maria Jessica Castro Cruz; (4) Kiana Mae Agulto Camacho; (5) Stephenny Pa-

trice Camacho Pangelinan; (6) David Ezekiel Rajendra Kaipat Igisomar; (7) Jordan Christianna Camacho Towai; (8) Anisa Jasma Cruz Villagomez; (9) Angel Chungi Wanphen Santos, and (10) Gloria- Niah Ilisari Deleon Guerrero.

The other award recipients are: Kiana Mae A. Camacho, Outstanding Female Graduate and Lt. Governor's Award; Froilan Gregory Camacho, Governor's Awardee; Johnson Tekau Aderuwangel Sebuu,

Principal's Leadership Award; Seiji Maga'lahi S. Gonzales, PTSA Award; Tessa Jo A. Sablan, Mayor's Award; Norbert Eugene Vi. Diaz Jr., Ayuyu Spirit Award; Maria Dolores C. Rasa and Jenisha Jo T. Durbull, Female Athlete of the Year; and Noah Peter F. Mesa and Francisco Kumuch, Male Athlete of the Year.

School principal Ben Jones emceed the ceremony and was joined in full force by his Kagman High School family. (PSS)



The Kagman High School family, Public School System, and Board of Education officials, along with community leaders, including former KHS principal and Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan), celebrate the successful transition of the 117 seniors. PSS



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(RE-ANNOUNCEMENT)

OPENING DATE: May 04, 2021
CLOSING DATE: June 03, 2021
TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:
2021-021	Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	\$60,000.00 to \$70,000.00 per annum (UNGRADED)

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

MICHAEL N. EVANGELISTA, ESQ. (CNMI Bar No. F0364)
LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA EVANGELISTA, LLC
D'Torres Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 235-8060; Fax: (670) 235-8070
Email: mnevangelista8@gmail.com

Attorney for Petitioner Memorina Olopai Christian

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF: FRANCISCO METTAA OLOPAI, Deceased.)
CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0157)
NOTICE OF HEARING and NOTICE TO CREDITORS)


TO: ALL CREDITORS AND INTERESTED CLAIMANTS

NOTICE is hereby given that Memorina Olopai Christian, of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has filed a petition in the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Letters of Administration and to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of Francisco Mettaa Olopai, deceased, and to determine the heirs of the decedent. The attorney of record is Michael N. Evangelista, Esq., P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on the petition is set for the 17th day of June, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., before the Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, at the Superior Court, Saipan, CNMI. All interested persons should appear at this hearing.

All persons having any claims against the estate or against the deceased should file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 18th day of May, 2021.

/s/
CLERK OF COURT



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

MVA-RFP-21-2026

For: Marianas Visitors Authority Local Public Relations and Media Services
Submission /Closing Date: June 11, 2021 Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after May 07, 2021 at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified Courier mail service on or before June 11, 2021 and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposals from outside the CNMI must notify the MVA Procurement Officer Ms. Lenette Maratita in writing of their intent to submit in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. This notice of intent may be submitted by any mode of written communication including facsimile to +1-670-664-3237 or emailed to Imaratita@mymarianas.com and must be received no later than 3:00 p.m., Chamorro Standard Time on June 11, 2021.

/s/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors
/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MVA IS HIRING!!!

JVA #	VACANT POSITION	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
JVA-21-001	MARKETING SPECIALIST II	MAY 17, 2021	MAY 31, 2021
JVA-21-002	GRAPHIC ARTIST	MAY 17, 2021	MAY 31, 2021
JVA-21-003	SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR	MAY 24, 2021	JUNE 7, 2021

ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN OR OTHERWISE QUALIFIED U.S. WORKER. INTERESTED PERSONS MAY CONTACT THE MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY OFFICE AT (670) 664-3200/01 OR VISIT WWW.MYMARIANAS.COM FOR MORE DETAILS.

Public warned vs rip currents today

The public is being warned that a high rip current risk is in effect on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota through this afternoon, May 31, 2021.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous rip currents are present along east facing reefs of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota through Monday afternoon.

Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

Residents are advised to avoid venturing near reef lines facing east. Rip currents will be life-threatening. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. (PR)

Reports detail COVID-19 impact on Guam residents, businesses

One in five Guam residents had their lives disrupted last year by the COVID-19 pandemic through loss of employment, inability to provide enough food for their families, and inability to settle household expenses.

Similarly, one in four businesses had to temporarily or permanently close—with tourism businesses being hit the hardest as far as revenue

loss, layoffs, closures, reliance on grants and loans, and diminished plans for growth.

These findings are detailed in two University of Guam reports—"Guam Recovery Research Project: The Impact of COVID-19 on Guam Residents and Business" and "Guam Recovery Research Project: The Impact of COVID-19 on Guam's Private Businesses and Tourism"—

released Friday from the Regional Center for Public Policy under the School of Business and Public Administration.

"This is important data to have documented as the island starts to recover from the pandemic," said RCPP director Dr. John Rivera. "As public and private sector leaders move forward with plans and policies to get lives and businesses back on track, it's essential they can make data-driven decisions and see who is most in need of assistance. Additionally, this data will provide a baseline to measure how well our people and our businesses recover over the next two years."

The reports were based off of surveys in November of 702 randomly selected residents, a review of Pandemic

Unemployment Assistance applications, and surveys of 413 randomly selected local businesses from the 2020 listing of business licenses.

Key highlights of the residential impact report include:

■ Those most affected by the pandemic were most commonly women, Chamoru, under age 40, having a high school education or less, having income of less than \$20,000 per year, and living with seven or more persons.

■ Those least affected by the pandemic were most commonly men, Filipino, over age 40, having some college education or more, having income of \$50,000 or more per year, married, living with four or fewer persons, and government workers.

■ The majority of PUA

applicants were women, under age 40, Filipino, having a household income of less than \$30,000, having no higher education, living in households with three to four people, those with no children, and those with jobs in service-related industries.

Key highlights of the business impact report include:

■ The private sector experienced a 66% decline in revenue in 2020 compared to 2017.

■ Construction industry revenues fared 45% better than all other businesses.

■ The number of businesses with fewer than 20 employees increased from 82% to 89% from 2017 to 2020, with 95% of tourism related businesses employing fewer than 20 people.

■ Nearly half of tourism businesses have furloughed most or all of their employees, with 12% continuing to pay those employees.

■ More than one-third of tourism businesses have laid off employees, with 20% laying off all of their employees.

■ 25% of all businesses had to temporarily or permanently close in 2020. Four percent of businesses had to permanently close.

UOG professor Roseann Jones, who holds a doctorate in economics, led the research with support from Market Research & Development Inc. and student interns. Funding support was provided by CARES Act funds through the Office of Governor of Guam.

Both reports are viewable at <https://url.uog.edu/rcpp> and www.guamrecovery.com. (UOG)

Guam Guard bids farewell to Menoni

BARRIGADA, Guam—On behalf of the Guam National Guard, Maj. Gen. Esther Aguigui hosted a farewell ceremony for Rear Adm. John Menoni at the Barrigada Readiness Complex on May 24.

In addition to an original poetry reading, Aguigui presented Menoni with a Guam Commendation Medal, a hand-made galaide model and other various gifts, to thank him for his service, mentorship, and friendship over the past 18 months as the Commander of Joint Region Marianas.

"I'm happy that I'm leav-



Menoni

ing, because I get to be with my family, but I'm also really sad, because I'm leaving a place that I love. This is a place that I truly love. It is a second home to me. The people are my brothers and sisters, my family and friends. It's a place where I grew up not only as an officer and as a father, but as a man. I will always remember Guam, and I will always remember what the Guam Guard has done for the United States. Thank you so much," said Menoni.

Menoni has served four missions on Guam spanning eight years. (Guam National Guard Public Affair)

USCIS eases visitor restrictions for fully vaccinated individuals

Due to updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has updated its visitor policy. Fully vaccinated individuals no longer have to wear a face covering. Individuals 2 years old and older who are not fully vaccinated must still wear a face covering.

To be considered fully vaccinated, it must be at least

two weeks after receiving a second dose in a two-dose series or at least two weeks after receiving a dose of a single-dose vaccine.


USCIS has eased other requirements for fully vaccinated individuals who do not have COVID-19 symptoms. Those who have returned from domestic air, international air or cruise ship travel in the past 10 days may enter

USCIS facilities if they are fully vaccinated. Individuals who have been in close contact (within six feet for a total of 15 minutes or more) with anyone known to have COVID-19 in the previous 14 days may also enter USCIS facilities if they are fully vaccinated. Healthcare workers who consistently wear an N95 respirator and proper personal protective

equipment or equivalent when in contact with COVID-19 positive individuals continue to be exempt from reporting close contact.

In DHS-controlled spaces, this guidance supersedes state, local, tribal, or territorial rules and regulations regarding face coverings.

For more information, see our USCIS Visitor Policy. (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-21-019

Island Wide Water Meter Installation

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Water Meter Installation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of: replacement of water meters, relocation of a water meter and meter vault, reconfiguration of water meter service laterals, expansion of a water meter vault, installation of gate valves, replacement of vault covers, installation of ladder rungs, driveway and sidewalk restoration, and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system and service to the customers affected. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 120 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **May 25, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-21-019, Island Wide Water Meter Installation" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 10, 2021**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A **Payment Bond** of one Hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 1, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email address alley.reyes@cucgov.org and to Christie Sablan, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician — christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Urgent Need!

We are looking for One (1)
CRANE OPERATOR (Grove 785)
who has valid crane certification
and Three (3) **LINEMEN** who
are willing to work in Guam.
Employer will provide airline
tickets and one-month **FREE**
rent accommodation.

For inquiries please email.
psgacepc@gmail.com
or call 287-7742

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

Honoring and remembering our fallen service members for Memorial Day

By **LONDON J. BELL**

InsideSources.com

London J. Bell is the Gold Star sister of Staff Sgt. Vincent J. Bell, a Marine who was killed in action in 2011 in Afghanistan. She wrote this for InsideSources.com.



The first warm days of spring in Michigan are always so exciting to celebrate. It is reminder that Memorial Day weekend is on the way as well as the kick-off for summer.

For me and my family, those first few warm days are beautiful, but also a reminder that Memorial Day is a painful reminder of our loss. My family and I are what is known as a Gold Star Family. Gold Star Families are families who have tragically lost a U.S. service member while serving during a time of conflict. For Gold Star Families, Memorial Day is the day we honor and remember the ultimate sacrifice of our fallen service member. It is a very painful day.

On Nov. 30, 2011, the lives of my mom, my dad, my sister and myself changed forever. My brother, Staff Sgt. Vincent J. Bell of the Marine Corps, had been in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, for only about 30 days when he was killed by an improvised explosive device while on a foot patrol; he was 28 years old.

Vincent had been in the Marines for 10 years and had already completed four tours of duty in Iraq. He absolutely loved being a Marine and serving our beautiful country. This was his life's work. He left an incredible legacy and is remembered by fellow Marines as being a dynamic and compassionate servant leader.

These are some of the very skills Vincent learned while growing up in our neighborhood in Detroit. Vincent completely gave of himself to his work, his Marines, and those he loved; and it is still extremely hard for all of us to accept that he is not with us. We have beautiful memories of him, and sometimes I still like to close my eyes and remember his hearty laugh when he would tease me and our sister.

On Memorial Day, my family and I don't celebrate a holiday with a backyard barbecue or time at the park or beach. For us, and for fellow Gold Star Families across the nation, Memorial Day is about honoring and remembering the beloved service member we have tragically lost. For many of us it is a reality once more of the empty seat at the dinner table, missed birthdays, missed hugs, and missed smiles and laughs. Memorial Day is the time many of us visit Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery, the final resting place for many of the men and women who died while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

There are many meaningful ways to honor and remember our country's fallen service members during Memorial Day. First, speak their names. This year speak aloud the names of

See **HONORING** on Next Page

'A story of a great sacrifice'

By **JAMES G. PANGELINAN**

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: Col. James G. Pangelinan of the U.S. Army will be delivering these remarks at the Memorial Day Service in Astoria, Illinois on Memorial Day, May 31, 2021, before members of the American Legion, the Chamber of Commerce and citizens of the city. The remarks honor and remember the American soldiers who were killed in the Battle of Saipan during World War II. It is being published here at the request of the author's father, Ed Pangelinan

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, members of the Chamber of Commerce and American Legion, family and friends, good morning, and thank you for joining us today for this Memorial Day Service.

We're here to honor and remember the devotion of American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines throughout our country's history who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great nation. We gather to speak their names and to commemorate their courage. On this peaceful summer day we take a few hours of our busy year to reflect on the fact that the blessings of liberty that we all enjoy today were paid for by the sacrifice of great men and women who gave their lives in the last full measure of devotion.

I'd like to share with you a story of such great sacrifice. It begins with a short history lesson, but ends with a tale of courage and valor worthy of remembrance. It's the story of how the blood, sweat, and dedication of American servicemen 77 years ago changed the world forever, and in doing so, made my life and the lives of my family possible.

My father, Edward, is from a small and beautiful island chain in the western Pacific called the Marianas. They're about halfway between Hawaii and Japan. Today, these islands include Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and they form the furthest western point of the United States. Two-hundred-thirteen-thousand American citizens live there today on the islands of Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

My father and his family are from Saipan. Today it's a

beautiful tropical destination, full of lush forests, deep-blue lagoons, farmlands, and resorts. It's a tiny piece of land, only about 45 square miles in total, surrounded by endless ocean.

But 77 years ago, almost to this day, this little spot of paradise was the scene of some of the bloodiest fighting of the Second World War. My father and his family were living on Saipan at the time. He was 5 years old.

On Dec. 8 1941, simultaneous with their attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese military invaded and forcibly seized the island of Guam from the U.S., giving them total domination of all the Mariana Islands.

A few months after these attacks, the U.S. and her Pacific Theater Allies began planning the series of campaigns that would result in the unconditional surrender of Japan in September 1945. But it would take four years of some of the bloodiest fighting the world had ever seen. The war in the Pacific would cost the lives of over 160,000 American servicemen. Another 250,000 Americans were wounded or captured throughout this theater of war.

Starting with the Doolittle Raid in April 1942, America and her allies began a remarkable series of counteroffensives in the Pacific. The number of battles that would follow in this theater are too numerous to recount, but they include unforgettable names etched into world history and onto the hearts and minds of the veterans who served there. Names like Coral Sea, Midway, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Guadalcanal, Burma, and the Marshall Islands. By March 1944, the stage was set for the U.S. to liberate the Mariana Islands.

On 5 June 1944, the day before the Allies would cross the English Channel on the D-Day Invasion, the U.S. 5th Fleet, carrying the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions and the Army's 27th Infantry Division embarked from Hawaii for the assault on Saipan. Ten days later, the historic Battle of Saipan began. The story of American heroism that followed over the next 24 days of fierce combat on the island of Saipan could fill a hundred history books. Here's the short version:

The battle commenced on the morning of June 15 with a naval bombardment of Japanese fortifications. An estimated 32,000 enemy troops were dug in and expecting the U.S. attack. Marines and soldiers riding in daylight on hundreds of

See **STORY** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

HONORING

From Page 8

and hold a moment of silence for those who have given their lives in service to our nation. Learn more about the history of Memorial Day to deepen your understanding and share these facts with family, friends and your community. If there are Memorial Day events in your community, plan to attend and speak the names of the fallen service members from your

community. If there are no Memorial Day events in your community, take the lead and create one. You may be the very person needed in your community to start an important tradition of honoring our fallen service members.

Also, learn more about Arlington National Cemetery or the national cemeteries in your state, and make plans to visit. Learn more about and support Gold Star Families. It is also especially important for everyone to understand the differences between Memorial Day and Veterans Day, and to understand that there will be people in your community in and

out of uniform who have suffered the loss of a service member. Memorial Day is a particularly difficult time for many people, and grace and kindness throughout the weekend, whether at the grocery store or the park, will go a long way.

Finally, instead of saying Happy Memorial Day—let others know that you plan to have a meaningful Memorial Day weekend by honoring and remembering those who gave their lives in service to our nation AND resting, relaxing and spending time with loved ones at the family barbecue. It is very much OK to do both.

STORY

From Page 8

landing craft began the amphibious assault against withering enemy machine gun, artillery, and mortar fires.

By afternoon, 20,000 U.S. troops had established a foothold on the southwest corner of the island, but had suffered terrible casualties. One out of every 10 Marines and soldiers in this assault were wounded or killed.

In the days and weeks that followed, the Americans expanded the beachhead and began clearing the island inch-by-inch. Each and every Japanese pillbox, camp, and gun emplacement had to be destroyed or captured, in bitter, sometimes hand-to-hand combat. Over time, the Japanese forces began retreating to fortified positions on the high ground of Mount Tapochau, the dominant terrain feature on the north side of the island. The engagements there over the next few days were a killing ground. Fighting in dense jungle and exposed to enemy fire from the high ground, U.S. Marines dubbed the area “Death Valley” and “Purple Heart Ridge.”

Eventually, Americans pushed the retreating Japanese off the mountain, forcing them into a last-stand position on the northern point of the island. Receiving no reinforcements from their navy, Japanese forces were trapped on all sides. While most of us would expect surrender to follow, what happened next highlights how fiercely the Japanese military fought. On July 6, their commander on Saipan, Gen. Saito, ordered his remaining troops to attempt a final bayonet charge. But the attack, while devastating, ultimately failed. Saito and his naval counterpart, Adm. Nagumo committed ritual suicide.

During the last days of the fighting, more than 4,000 Japanese troops and civilians, including scores of Japanese women and children, committed suicide rather than surrender. Over a thousand jumped from a spot known as Suicide Cliff, plunging 800 feet to their deaths. By the end of the fighting the Japanese suffered a staggering 29,000 casualties.

On July 9, enemy forces were defeated, and the American Flag was raised in victory over Saipan. In the 24 days of brutal combat for the liberation of this island, Americans suffered 14,000 casualties, a 20% casualty rate. [A total of] 3,426 U.S. servicemen gave the ultimate sacrifice on that remote island in the middle of the Pacific. They died thousands of miles from their families, their homes, and the country they loved.

Five U.S. Marines and soldiers won the Medal of Honor on Saipan, all awarded posthumously. Hundreds of Silver Stars, Navy Crosses, Purple Hearts, and awards for gallantry under enemy fire would be awarded to the 71,000 Americans that took part in the three weeks of fighting.

So what is the legacy of this ultimate sacrifice paid for by brave American Marines, soldiers, and sailors some 77 years ago? Did their deaths have meaning? And why am I asking you to remember them on this Memorial Day?

I believe the 3,500 American troops that died in combat on the Island of Saipan in 1944 changed the world forever.

Their sacrifice paved the way to end the war and established a persistent peace across the Pacific that remains to this day.

Once American forces liberated Saipan, they fought to liberate the remaining Mariana Islands of Tinian, Rota, and Guam. Naval engineers carved huge airfields into the jungles of the islands. The B-29 Bomber Squadrons of the Army Air Corps were finally in a position to strike into the heart of Japan. By early 1945, the North Field Airbase on Tinian was the largest airport in the world. It would become the base that the U.S. launched the fateful *Enola Gay* and *Bockscar* B-29s in August, which dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ending the war.

In the years that followed the war, the Mariana Islands became, by United Nations’ mandate, a trust territory under U.S. protection. In the great post-war peace that reigned over the newly-liberated islands of the Pacific, America did something that almost no victorious nation had ever done before. We told the people of Marianas and many other islanders across the Pacific that they could choose their own future, and America would protect them and help rebuild their lives as they did so. The people of the Marianas weren’t American citizens, but many felt they were Americans in spirit.

As a 5-year-old boy on Saipan during these fateful events in world history, my father was deeply transformed by the heroism and sacrifice of the tall American troops who liberated his island home. He told me a childhood story about the end of the fighting, which I’ll never forget. His family had fled the combat and were sheltering with 82 other civilians in caves for several terrifying weeks.

In the end, my father remembers emerging from the caves, rescued by the U.S. Marines who had fought to liberate them. As he ran out into the sunlight, my father distinctly remembers an African American Marine who was speaking with my grandfather outside the cave entrance. When the Marine saw my father approach, he put his rifle down and hugged the little boy. This Marine told my grandfather that he had a young son back in the States, and hugged my dad because he reminded him so much of his boy back at home. That moment changed my father’s life forever. This simple act of kindness by a U.S. Marine in an active war zone was transformative in the life of a little island boy...who in that moment had become an American in his heart.

Three-thousand five-hundred American troops paid the ultimate price to liberate a 5-year old Saipanese boy, who spoke no English and had never seen America. Their sacrifice made him the man he would become, and their deaths made Saipan free.

In the 1960s my father received a scholarship to attend college in the United States. He went to George Washington University and later earned a law degree from Howard University. There in Washington, D.C., he met my mother. Soon after, my parents married and returned back to the islands.

Over the next five years my father and a small group of other leaders formed the Marianas Political Status Commission. With the consent of their fellow Islanders, they embarked on a political journey unique in American history.

They created a Covenant to make the Northern Mariana Islands a Commonwealth of the United States. From 1972

to 75 they negotiated this Covenant with the U.S. government on behalf of the people of the Northern Marianas. In early 1975, the Covenant was submitted to the populace to vote on in a plebiscite, and was overwhelmingly approved. It was ratified by the U.S. Congress and signed into Public Law on March 24, 1976, by President Gerald Ford. The Covenant made all people from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas officially American citizens and all of the islands part of the United States. They are the first people in American history to voluntarily join the USA through peaceful political negotiation.

The Covenant was the embodiment of a dream made possible by the sacrifice of the American servicemen who liberated Saipan. My father had the honor of serving as the first Resident Representative to the United States for the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas in our nation’s capital. The little boy, who was rescued from a cave by an American Marine, had helped to make this dream a reality.

Today 52,000 Americans call the CNMI home and, as a result of the Covenant, the U.S. now controls 240,000 square miles of the Western Pacific Ocean under its national sovereignty. The inclusion of the CNMI has expanded the cultural fabric and diversity of the United States, adding the rich traditions and proud history of the people of the Northern Marianas.

I wouldn’t be alive today without the sacrifice of those brave men who gave their lives on the island of Saipan 77 years ago. The names of these heroes are inscribed in the American Memorial Park on Saipan. My family and millions of others have benefitted greatly from the price those men paid. Our lives were transformed by their heroism and valor. The Americans who died on Saipan in service to our great nation gave the gift of liberty to generations of Americans and generations more still to come.

Their lives changed the course of the world for the better and brought peace and prosperity to our nation and to people around the world. Their example inspired me and thousands of other people of the Marianas to serve in the U.S. military. The deaths in combat of these brave men was an act of enduring selflessness. It was a gift, freely given to all of us and everyone who comes after us. Their sacrifice reverberates. It echoes and enables. It continues to bless us, and it must never be forgotten.

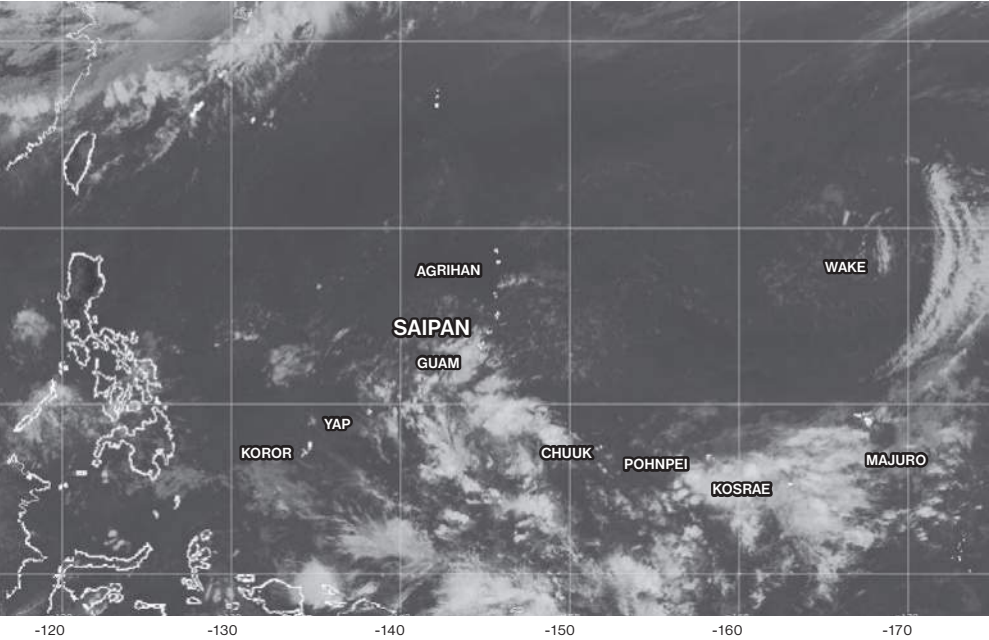
Today we remember this sacrifice and cherish the price of freedom paid by our fallen. They form a long and unbreakable line that stretches back from the trenches of Yorktown, to the picket lines of Gettysburg, to the beaches of Normandy and Saipan, the frozen ground of Chipyong-ni, the tall grass of the Ia Drang Valley, the deserts of Kuwait, to the streets of Baghdad. In order for a nation to be free, it must first have men and women willing to fight and if necessary to die for that freedom.

Today we raise a silent prayer to all of our fallen servicemen over the two and a half centuries of our nation’s history. We commemorate and cherish the gift they gave us and our children. Let us today and always keep them in a sacred place within our hearts. May God continue to bless our great nation with patriots like the brave Americans who liberated Saipan. Thank you!

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
86°76°	86°76°	86°76°	88°77°	88°77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:08 AM, SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A few showers are crossing the Guam waters this morning with partly cloudy skies across all of the Marianas. Additional showers are approaching from the east. The morning buoys show an assortment of conditions, with waves just under 7 feet observed at Ipan, near 6 feet at Ritidian, and 3 feet at Tanapag. The water temp at Ritidian is 84 degrees.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA		▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	89 80 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	85 78 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	88 75 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87 81 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86 80 °F
Kosrae	Partly cloudy	86 80 °F
Majuro	Partly cloudy	85 80 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Tuesday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Wednesday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Thursday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:18 AM	11:35 PM
Tuesday	-	11:16 AM	5:25 AM
Wednesday	12:20 AM	12:10 PM	-
Thursday	1:00 AM	1:00 PM	-
Friday	1:37 AM	1:48 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲▼°F
Auckland	Rain	63 53 °F
Beijing	Sunny	91 74 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly cloudy	83 77 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	85 73 °F
London	Mostly cloudy	70 52 °F
Los Angeles	Partly cloudy	77 61 °F
Manila	Mostly cloudy	89 79 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	53 43 °F
Miami	Thunderstorms	89 79 °F
New York	Cloudy	65 58 °F
Osaka	Sunny	86 68 °F
Paris	Partly cloudy	75 54 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	89 64 °F
Rome	Sunny	84 58 °F
Salem	Mostly cloudy	79 54 °F
San Francisco	Cloudy	62 52 °F
Seoul	Partly cloudy	83 61 °F
Tokyo	Sunny	83 68 °F
Washington, DC	Cloudy	79 61 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:34 AM	High Tide	2.08
6:06 AM	Low Tide	1.44
10:14 AM	High Tide	1.87
5:55 PM	Low Tide	-0.13

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 20, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6,
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SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam
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GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6,
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MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
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MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable

1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NEWS DESK

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Business

United expands Hawaii pre-clearance program

GUAM—United Airlines officially announced at the A.B. Won Pat International Airport, Guam, that customers traveling from Guam to Honolulu who have a valid negative COVID-19 test can show their results before boarding to save time and skip document screening lines upon arrival. United is also making it easier to get the right tests to avoid Hawaii's 10-day quarantine by making approved COVID-19 tests available to all customers traveling to the islands.

» Guam, Micronesia customers now included

Currently, a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours of departure is required to avoid quarantine. "We're making it easier for our customers in Guam and Micronesia who are traveling to Hawaii to spend more time enjoying their trip and less time waiting in lines," said Sam Shinohara, managing director of Airport Operation for Asia-Pacific at United.

"I am pleased that we are able to expand this procedure to Guam to make the Hawaii travel experience easier and more enjoyable." To begin

the pre-clearance program, customers will enroll in Hawaii's Safe Travels program and complete Hawaii's COVID-19 questionnaire within 24 hours from departure. Next, customers will use the Safe Travels website to upload their negative test results from one of Hawaii's trusted testing partners which must be taken within 72 hours of their departure.

For Guam, the State of Hawaii has listed the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services and DLS+

as trusted test partners. At the Guam Airport, customers will see United team members at the gate for their flight to Hawaii where they will receive a wristband if they qualify to bypass airport screening in Hawaii. Customers who have been pre-cleared will be able to skip the mandatory test screenings in Hawaii and begin their trip as soon as they land.

Shinohara added, "Our team in Guam is committed to making this process as smooth as possible for Hawaii-bound customers. We are reaching



United's pre-clearance procedure for customers in the mainland U.S. traveling to Hawaii has now been expanded to Guam and Micronesia.

out to the community to create awareness for Hawaii's travel requirements so all travelers can be prepared to present their negative test results and pre-clear online. When they arrive at the check-in counter, customers will see a special Hawaii Pre-clearance desk, where our team members ensure that every passenger is prepared for arrival in Honolulu.

For our transiting customers, we also have a desk set up at the departure gate to assist them before they board." Earlier this year United has launched the same pre-clearance procedure for customers in the mainland U.S. traveling to Hawaii.

United has also made it easier for customers to obtain approved COVID-19 test options with the expansion of mail-in tests to customers no matter where in the U.S. their travel originates. The airline will notify customers in advance of their Hawaii trip to let them know what testing options they have locally.

"Testing is the key to opening domestic and international travel so we'll continue to lead the way in rolling out solutions to make our customers' air travel safer and easier," Shinohara said. "Our focus is to keep our customers and employees safe throughout their entire journey with us, and this is another step toward helping them to feel more confident about traveling again."

Enhancing customer experience

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, United made numerous enhancements to its business that improve the

travel experience and make the airline a better company. Earlier this week, United announced a new Travel-Ready Center in the United app and online where customers can review COVID-19 travel requirements, find local testing options, and upload any testing and vaccination records that their destinations require. This year, United also began allowing all customers to fly standby on another flight to the same destination on the same day for free, and all MileagePlus® Premier® members now confirm a new flight on the same day to the same destinations at check-in when space is available in the same fare class. Last year, the carrier eliminated most change fees, pledged to reduce its greenhouse gases 100% by 2050, and as a part of its United CleanPlus program, teamed up with Clorox and the Cleveland Clinic to guide its cleaning and safety protocols. Last spring, United extended MileagePlus Premier status to all customers through January 2022 and made earning status for the next two years easier for all MileagePlus members.

United's shared purpose is "Connecting People. Uniting the World." For more information, visit united.com, follow @United on Twitter and Instagram, or connect on Facebook. The common stock of UAL is traded on the Nasdaq under the symbol "UAL."

Biden's \$6T budget: Social spending, taxes on business

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden is proposing a \$6 trillion budget for next year that's piled high with new safety net programs for the poor and middle class, but his generosity depends on taxing corporations and the wealthy to keep the nation's spiking debt from spiraling totally out of control.

Biden inherited record pandemic-stoked spending and won a major victory on COVID-19 relief earlier this year. Friday's rollout adds his recently announced infrastructure and social spending initiatives and fleshes out his earlier plans to sharply increase spending for annual Cabinet budgets.

This year's projected deficit would set a new record of \$3.7 trillion that would drop to \$1.8 trillion next year—still almost double pre-pandemic levels. The national debt will soon breach \$30 trillion after more than \$5 trillion in already approved COVID-19 relief. As a result, the government must borrow roughly 50 cents of every dollar it spends this year and next.

With the deficit largely unchecked, Biden would use

proposed tax hikes on businesses and high-earning people to power huge new social programs like universal pre-kindergarten, large subsidies for child care and guaranteed paid leave.

"The best way to grow our economy is not from the top down, but from the bottom up and the middle out," Biden said in his budget message. "Our prosperity comes from the people who get up every day, work hard, raise their family, pay their taxes, serve their Nation, and volunteer in their communities."

The budget incorporates the administration's eight-year, \$2.3 trillion infrastructure proposal and its \$1.8 trillion American Families Plan and adds details on his \$1.5 trillion request for annual operating expenditures for the Pentagon and domestic agencies.

Acting White House budget chief Shalanda Young said the Biden plan "does exactly what the president told the country he would do. Grow the economy, create jobs and do so responsibly by requiring the wealthiest Americans and big corporations to pay their fair share."

Biden's budget is sure to

give Republicans fresh ammunition for their criticisms of the new Democratic administration as bent on a "tax and spend" agenda that would damage the economy and impose a crushing debt burden on younger Americans. Republicans also say he's shorting the military.

"It is insanely expensive. It dramatically increases nondefense spending and taxes" and would weaken the Pentagon, said South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, top Republican on the Budget Committee and a generally pragmatic GOP voice on spending bills. "There will be serious discussions about government funding. But the Biden budget isn't serious and it won't be a part of those discussions."

Veteran GOP Sen. Richard Shelby, whose help is needed to pass annual agency budget bills, blasted Biden's plan as "a blueprint for the higher taxes, excessive spending" that also "shortchanges our national security."

Biden is a veteran of a long-gone Washington that fought bitterly in the 1980s and 1990s to wrestle the deficit under control.

Egypt: Suez Canal ship case adjourned for compensation talks

CAIRO (AP)—An Egyptian court on Saturday adjourned the case of a hulking cargo vessel that blocked the Suez Canal for nearly a week earlier this year. The move is to allow more time for negotiations aiming at resolving a financial dispute between the Suez Canal Authority and the vessel's owner.

The dispute centers on the compensation amount the Suez Canal Authority is claiming for the salvage of the vessel Ever Given, which ran aground in March, blocking the crucial waterway for six days in March.

At first, the Suez Canal Authority demanded \$916 million in compensation, which was later lowered to \$550 million, the head of the canal authority, Lt. Gen. Osama Rabie, said in comments on a television program on Sunday.

The money would cover the salvage operation, costs of stalled canal traffic, and lost transit fees for the week the Ever Given blocked the canal.

The vessel's Japanese own-

er, Shoei Kisen Kaisha Ltd., and insurers said the demand is still too high. They previously had offered \$150 million in compensation but that was rejected by the canal authority.

The Ismailia Economic Court adjourned the hearing to June 20, as the vessel's owner submitted a new offer to settle the dispute out of court, the Suez Canal Authority said in a statement.

The statement offered no further details.

Since it was freed, the Panama-flagged vessel, which carries cargo between Asia and Europe, has been ordered by authorities to remain in a holding lake mid-canal as its owner and the canal author-

BankGuam Holding Co. declares dividends

HAGATNA, Guam—BankGuam Holding Company (BKGMF) announced that its board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.10 per share for the holders of its common stock and a dividend payment to the holders of the company's

ity try to settle the compensation dispute.

The two sides have traded blame for the vessel's grounding.

The six-day blockage disrupted global shipping. Hundreds of ships waited in place for the canal to be unblocked, while some ships were forced to take the much longer route around the Cape of Good Hope at Africa's southern tip, requiring additional fuel and other costs.

About 10% of world trade flows through the canal, a pivotal source of foreign currency to Egypt. Some 19,000 vessels passed through the canal last year, according to official figures.

5.5% Fixed Rate/Floating Rate Noncumulative Preferred Stock, Series A, at its Board's regular meeting held on Monday, May 24, 2021. The dividends will be paid on June 30, 2021, to shareholders of record as of June 15, 2021. (PR)

Nation

Black fear of Tulsa police lingers 100 years after massacre

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—There's been undeniable progress in the relationship between the Tulsa police and the city's Black community in the past 100 years. Then again, it's hard to imagine it could have gotten worse.

Complaints about police bias and a lack of enough minority officers remain. But the police chief is now a Black man from north Tulsa, the area that includes what once was America's wealthiest Black business district.

Back in 1921—decades before the civil rights movement—even the thought of a Black police chief would have been inconceivable. That year, Greenwood—the Black north Tulsa neighborhood that includes the area known as Black Wall Street—was burned to the ground with assistance from the virtually all-white Tulsa Police Department. Sparked by accusations that a 19-year-old Black man had assaulted a 17-year-old white girl in an elevator, the Tulsa Race Massacre left as many as 300 Black people dead and thousands of Black residents displaced. Thirty-five square blocks were torched and damages spiraled into the millions.

Tulsa's police department deputized white mobs and provided them with arms. Numerous reports describe white men with badges setting fires and shooting Black people as part of the Greenwood invasion. According to an Associated Press article from the



time, Black people who were driven from their homes by the hundreds shouted, "Don't shoot!" as they rushed through the flames.

After the massacre went largely ignored for decades, awareness has increased in recent years. Police Chief Chuck Jordan stood in Greenwood in 2013 and apologized for the department's role.

"I can't apologize for the actions, inaction or derelictions of those individual officers and their chief," Jordan said. "But as your chief today, I can apologize for our police

department. I am sorry and distressed that the Tulsa Police Department did not protect its citizens during the tragic days in 1921."

The appointment of Wendell Franklin to succeed Jordan last year is seen by some as a measure of progress. But Black Tulsans say that's not enough.

"I think it's something that the community needs to see," said Ina Sharon Mitchell, a 70-year-old woman who was raised in north Tulsa. "But how far does that change really go when the doors are closed?"

In a 2018 Gallup-Tulsa Ci-

Those states include Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia.

The latest state to implement a law is Tennessee, where the governor this past week signed a bill to ban the teaching of critical race theory in schools.

The legislative debate over that bill caused a stir earlier this month when a Republican lawmaker who supports it, state Rep. Justin Lafferty, wrongly declared that the Constitution's original provision designating a slave as three-fifths of a person was adopted for "the purpose of ending slavery." Historians largely agree that the compromise gave slaveholding states more political power.

Some other states have taken steps that fall short of legislative change.

tivoice Index poll designed to measure quality of life issues, only 18% of Black residents said they trust police "a lot," compared to 49% of white residents, and 46% of Black Tulsans said they trust the Police Department "not at all" or "not much," compared to 16% of whites.

According to Tulsa Equality Indicators, produced in a

partnership between the city and the Community Service Council, Black juveniles were more than three times more likely to be arrested in 2020 than white youths. Black adults were more than 2.54 times more likely to be arrested than white adults and 2.65 times more likely to experience use of force.

In 2016, then-Tulsa police

AP
In this Saturday, June 20, 2020 file photo, a Tulsa Police officer works near a Black Lives Matter event a few blocks away from the BOK Center before a rally by President Donald Trump in Tulsa, Okla.

officer Betty Shelby shot and killed Terence Crutcher, an unarmed Black man. Shelby—a white woman—was acquitted of manslaughter. She was reassigned in the department before resigning. For Black Tulsans who grew up learning what happened in Greenwood, Crutcher's killing brought old pain back to the surface.

"I believe that my brother's killing really unearthed a century of racial tension here in Tulsa, Oklahoma," said Tiffany Crutcher, Terence Crutcher's twin sister who is also organizing commemoration events for the anniversary of the massacre.

Crutcher said the relationship between Tulsa's police and the community is still strained.

"Here in Tulsa, explicitly and specifically, there's not a really good relationship between law enforcement and the Black community, Black and brown communities," she said. "The relationship isn't good at all. There's no trust there."

Special House election measures political pulse after Trump

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—A special congressional election is checking the political pulse of politics across the Albuquerque metro area and a few outlying rural communities in one of the few House campaigns since President Joe Biden took office.

Four names are on the ballot in Tuesday's election to succeed Deb Haaland in Congress after her confirmation as secretary of the U.S. Interior Department. After weeks of early voting, polling locations are closed on Sunday and Monday before reopening on Election Day with allowances for same-day registration.

New Mexico's 1st Congressional District has heavily favored Democratic candidates in recent years, shunning President Donald Trump with a gap of 23 percentage points in 2020 and reelecting Haaland with a margin of 16 percentage points as voter participation reached an all-time high.

Those margins bode well for Democratic nominee and

second-term state Rep. Melanie Stansbury, as she confronts Republican state Sen. Mark Moores. Republicans hope to erode the 219-211 Democratic majority in the U.S. House of Representatives ahead of midterm elections in 2022.

Stansbury, a consultant on land use and water policy, has embraced Biden's core agenda for post-pandemic economic recovery, free universal preschool and infrastructure spending that modernizes energy and transportation sectors to address global warming. In recent debates, she has endorsed a \$15 national minimum wage, reforms to address police misconduct and systemic racism, and a more humanitarian approach to immigration.

Moores has emphasized the need for aggressive drug interdiction and immigration enforcement along the U.S. border with Mexico and uninterrupted oil leasing on federal land as a crucial source of employment in New Mexico. His campaign has seized on con-

cerns about public safety and crime as a core issue, backing more federal dollars for police body cameras that are required in New Mexico and voicing support for police officers.

A hardline approach to crime by Trump in 2020 fell flat with Albuquerque-area voters after he sent federal agents to bolster local law enforcement efforts. Still, crime remains an issue for the city.

Two additional candidates are vying for untethered voters in a state with strong currents of libertarian politics.

Independent contender Aubrey Dunn Jr., a former Republican elected to statewide office as land commissioner who didn't seek reelection in 2018, has cast himself as a staunch defender of gun rights and an experienced steward of public lands. Libertarian nominee Chris Manning, who lives far outside the 1st District in Farmington, is campaigning on an unorthodox plan to reduce health care costs by eliminating employer-based coverage and insurance requirements.

State GOP lawmakers try to limit teaching about race, racism

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Teachers and professors in Idaho will be prevented from "indoctrinating" students on race. Oklahoma teachers will be prohibited from saying certain people are inherently racist or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously. Tennessee schools will risk losing state aid if their lessons include particular concepts about race and racism.

Governors and legislatures in Republican-controlled states across the country are moving to define what race-related ideas can be taught in public schools and colleges, a reaction to the nation's racial reckoning after last year's police killing of George Floyd. The measures have been signed into law in at least three states and are being considered in many more.

Educators and education groups are concerned that the proposals will have a chilling effect in the classroom and

that students could be given a whitewashed version of the nation's history. Teachers are also worried about possible repercussions if a student or parent complains.

"Once we remove the option of teachers incorporating all parts of history, we're basically silencing the voices of those who already feel oppressed," said Lakeisha Patterson, a third-grade English and social studies teacher who lives in Houston and worries about a bill under consideration in Texas.

At least 16 states are considering or have signed into law bills that would limit the teaching of certain ideas linked to "critical race theory," which seeks to reframe the narrative of American history. Its proponents argue that federal law has preserved the unequal treatment of people on the basis of race and that the country was founded on the theft of land and labor.

Asia

AFTER VIRUS UPSURGE

Chinese city locks down area

BEIJING (AP)—The southern Chinese city of Guangzhou shut down a neighborhood and ordered its residents to stay home Saturday for door-to-door coronavirus testing following an upsurge in infections that has rattled authorities.

Guangzhou, a business and industrial center of 15 million people north of Hong Kong, has reported 20 new infections over the past week. The number is small compared with India's thousands of daily cases but has alarmed Chinese authorities who believed they had the disease under control.

The spread of infections was "fast and strong," the official Global Times newspaper cited health authorities as saying.

Saturday's order to stay home applied to residents of five streets in Liwan District in the city center.

Outdoor markets, child care centers and entertainment venues were closed. Indoor restaurant dining was prohibited. Grade schools were told to stop in-person classes.

People in parts of four nearby districts were ordered to limit outdoor activity.

The city government earlier



A resident gets tested for coronavirus in the Liwan District in Guangzhou in southern China's Guangdong province on Wednesday May 26, 2021.

ordered testing of hundreds of thousands of residents following the initial infections. The government said some 700,000 people had been tested by Wednesday.

China reports a handful of new cases every day but says almost all are believed to be people who were infected abroad. The mainland's official death toll stands at 4,636 out of 91,061 confirmed cases.

On Saturday, the National Health Commission reported two new locally transmitted cases in Guangzhou and 14 in other parts of the country that

it said came from abroad.

Most of the latest infections in Guangzhou are believed to be linked to a 75-year-old woman who was found May 21 to have the variant first identified in India, state media say. Most of the others attended a dinner with her or live together.

That infection spread to the nearby city of Nanshan, where one new confirmed case and two asymptomatic cases were reported Saturday after people from Guangzhou were tested, according to The Global Times.

China, PH swap protests over Manila-occupied island

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines has demanded that China withdraw its ships and fishing vessels from the vicinity of a Philippine-occupied island in the South China Sea, where the Chinese military has asserted its sovereignty and vowed to "unswervingly safeguard" the disputed territory.

The exchange of protests by the Asian neighbors over the island, internationally called Thitu, is the latest flareup in a long simmering territorial feud in the strategic waterway that has escalated in the last two months.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said Saturday it has filed a diplomatic protest against "the incessant deployment, prolonged presence and illegal activities of Chinese maritime assets and fishing vessels in the vicinity of the Pag-asa islands." It used the Philippine name for Thitu, which China calls Zhongye Dao.

The department demanded that China withdraw its vessels from near the island, which it said "is an integral part of the Philippines over which it has sovereignty and jurisdiction."

The 37.2-hectare (92-acre) island is the largest of nine mostly islets, reefs and shoals

occupied by Philippine forces in the disputed waters. The Manila government lists Thitu and outlying outcrops as part of a town in western Palawan province.

Aside from Filipino troops and police, a small fishing community can be found on Thitu. The government has constructed a beach ramp to allow the docking of navy and cargo ships and unloading of construction materials and heavy equipment for new projects, including the repair and lengthening of a sea-water-eroded airstrip, an ice plant for fishermen and more military barracks.

Chinese officials have not protested as loudly as before the Philippine constructions amid cozier ties between Beijing and Manila under Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte. But on Thursday, Chinese Defense Ministry spokesman Tang Keifei said China was "resolutely opposed" to any Philippine development on Thitu.

"China's military will unswervingly safeguard national territory, sovereignty and maritime rights, while resolutely maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea,"

Tang said, without elaborating at a monthly briefing.

The escalating feud between Manila and Beijing started after more than 200 Chinese vessels suspected by Philippine authorities to be operated by government militias were spotted in early March at Whitsun Reef. The Philippine defense chief and foreign secretary demanded the vessels leave, and Filipino officials later deployed navy and coast guard vessels to the area. China said it owns the reef and the Chinese vessels were sheltering there from rough seas.

The Philippines has issued dozens of diplomatic protests to China since then over the disputes.

Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. apologized early this month after tweeting an obscene phrase demanding China get out of Philippine-claimed territory in the South China Sea in an outburst that annoyed Duterte.

"Just because we have a conflict with China does not mean to say that we have to be rude and disrespectful," Duterte said. "We have many things to thank China for the help in the past and its assistance now."

World

IN TIME FOR SUMMER

Big drop in virus cases

ROME (AP)—When Italy won the Eurovision Song Contest with an over-the-top glam-rock performance, the victory signaled more than just a psychological boost for one of the countries hardest hit by COVID-19: Held before a live, indoor audience of 3,500, the annual kitsch fest confirmed that Europe was returning to a semblance of normalcy that was unthinkable even a few weeks ago.

Coronavirus infections, hospitalizations and deaths are plummeting across the continent, after Europe led the world in new cases last fall and winter in waves that cost hundreds of thousands of lives, forced more rolling lockdowns and overwhelmed intensive care units.

Now, vaccination rates are accelerating across Europe, and with them, the promise of summer vacations on Ibiza, Crete or Corsica. There are hopes for a rebirth of a tourism industry that in Spain and Italy alone accounts for 13% of gross domestic product but was wiped out by the pandemic.

"We don't speak of 2020.

We speak of from today onward," said Guglielmo Miani, president of Milan's Montenapoleone luxury shopping district, where European and American tourists have started trickling back, wooed in part by in-person meetups with design teams and free breakfasts at iconic cafes. The hope is that Asian tourists will follow next year.

Europe saw the largest decline in new COVID-19 infections and deaths this week compared with any other region, while also reporting about 44% of adults had received at least one dose of vaccine, according to the World Health Organization and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

Europe's seven-day rolling average for new cases per 100,000 people had been higher than any other region from mid-October through the beginning of December, ceding the unwanted top spot to the Americas over the new year before reclaiming it from early February through April, according to an Associated Press analysis of data from Johns Hopkins University.

Now, no European country is among the top 10 for new cases per 100,000 people. And only Georgia, Lithuania and Sweden are in the top 20.

But the virus is spiking in Southeast Asia and much of Latin America and hitting the Maldives and Seychelles particularly hard this week. Dr. Michael Ryan, WHO's chief of emergencies, warned that with the global situation still "fragile and volatile," Europe is by no means out of the woods.

"Relaxing measures prematurely has contributed to the surge we have seen throughout 2020 and during the first quarter of 2021," he warned. "We must stay the course while striving to increase vaccination coverage."

The biggest concern for Europe is the highly contagious variant first detected in India, which has brought that country to its knees and found a growing foothold in Britain. The British government warned Thursday that the variant from India accounts for 50% to 75% of all new infections and could delay its plans to lift remaining social restrictions on June 21.

Colombia's president deploys military to protest-hit city

BUCARAMANGA, Colombia (AP)—Colombian President Iván Duque on Friday announced the deployment of military forces to the city of Cali after at least three people died in increasingly violent protests and talks to end the social uprising stalled.

Duque repeated his assertion that the protests, which have been raging for a month, are infiltrated by illegal armed groups and promised to deploy "all intelligence capabilities" to demonstrate this.

"This deployment will almost triple our capacity throughout the province in less than 24 hours, ensuring assistance in nerve centers where we have seen acts of vandalism, violence and low-intensity urban terrorism," said the president, speaking from Cali, the city in southwest Colombia that has become the epicenter of the nationwide antigovernment protests.

The deployment comes after Attorney General Francisco Barbosa said an agent with the his institution was allegedly killed by civilians after opening fire.

"According to the information collected so far, he shot several people causing the death of civilians ... then he ended up dead at the hands of people at the scene," Barbosa said in a statement.

José Miguel Vivanco, director of the Americas Division of Human Rights Watch, urged Duque to prohibit the use of firearms by state agents and said the organization had corroborated videos from Cali showing armed men in civilian clothing shooting.

Juliette de Rivero, representative in Colombia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, called for an end to violence, also citing cases of "civilians shooting" in Cali.

Protests were held Friday in other parts of Colombia as the country marked a month since the start of the largest protests here in decades. More than 40 people have been killed and 2,200 civilians and police injured.

The protests erupted when Duque proposed a wide-ranging tax increase, but continued even after he backed off, transformed into a general outcry against growing pover-

ty and inequality in a country where the unemployment rate doubled over the past year of pandemic.

The government and the National Strike Committee have not been able to establish the conditions to open negotiations. The protesters are demanding the government guarantee the right to social protest while Duque's administration won't budge from its demand that road blockades that have created widespread shortages be lifted.

"What we are seeing is a delaying action by the government which does not understand the complexity of the moment," said Francisco Maltés, president of the Central Workers Union, who blamed the Duque government for not signing a guarantee agreement and not responding to requests for a date to start talks.

Sandra Borda, an analyst and expert on protests, said there is a crisis of representativeness in both the government, which has limited room for maneuver, and the National Strike Committee, which does not represent all the sectors that are demonstrating.

Health & Wellness

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Pandemic-fueled online fitness classes have brought on a long-term change in the way—and the places—that people work out.

Online fitness classes go mainstream

By JEFF STRICKLER
STAR TRIBUNE

Last spring, when fitness clubs were ordered to close because of the pandemic, they started offering online classes as an option to their exercise-deprived clients. It was supposed to be a temporary fix, but it has become a long-term change in the way—and the places—that people work out.

Clubs are ramping up their online offerings to reach members who have realized that they like exercising at home.

“We took what we thought were

lemons and made some pretty cool lemonade,” said Kyle Beste, vice president of fitness and nutrition for the Life Time fitness clubs. “What we thought was a stopgap solution has evolved into a new way of thinking about our business.”

By linking its clubs, Life Time is offering more than 600 livestreamed classes a week, with several hundred more available via on-demand recordings. As it ratchets up production, the company is eyeing as many as 1,000 livestreamed classes a week in everything from yoga to cycling, strength training to cardio workouts.

“If the members want to take a

thousand classes a week, we’ll give them to them,” he said.

Life Time is far from the only club making this move. The YMCA360 program offers a wide range of online programs, from its Silver Sneakers classes for senior citizens to kids’ yoga. National fitness chains like LA Fitness and Orangetheory also have jumped into livestreaming.

Technological innovations—including Zoom, YouTube and FaceTime—have opened the online door to small, independent clubs, as well. There even are individual trainers who’ve gotten into the act, such as Minneapolis-based Kelsey Lindell,

whose sessions are offered as part of the Shape Society Collective, a co-op fitness organization.

And it’s not just the clubs. The companies that make exercise equipment also offer streaming and on-demand classes. Peloton is perhaps the best known because of its advertising, but it has plenty of company, including Nordictrack and Bowflex.

Even fitness clothing companies have gotten into the market. Nike has launched its Training Club App. In addition to exercise classes, Reebok is offering wellness sessions. And the Mirror, recently purchased by Lululemon, offers real-time interactive training.

Of course, there also are the video offerings that were around before the pandemic but have stepped up production, including Crunch Fitness and Beach Body.

This is not strictly a U.S. phenomenon, either. A recent report by British-based AMA Research, which tracks trends in health care, said that interest in online fitness classes is growing worldwide and predicted that the gains will continue at least through 2025.

“Online fitness courses are rapidly gaining popularity due to the growing health awareness among the people, increased internet penetration and rise in smartphone users,” the report said. Everyone “from children to adults are taking huge interest in online fitness courses.”

One of the main motivators in Life Time’s surge in online classes was the realization that the landscape of the workaday world is changing.

Various economic analysts are predicting that even after the pandemic all-clear is sounded, many people will continue to work from home, at least part time. And that means that many people likely will continue to exercise from home.

“We want to meet people where they are,” Beste said.

“Most people are still working from home,” agreed Nastassia Smith, Life Time’s senior director of Group Fitness Operations. “It’s their new normal.”

Smith doesn’t expect the in-club classes to disappear; they’re still a major draw. But having the classes available online lets people choose which ones they want to attend in person and which are better squeezed into a busy schedule by connecting remotely.

They’ve also proved popular with the class leaders.

“The instructors can keep connected with the members of their classes,” Beste said. “They get a lot of energy from the classes.”

There was an adjustment period when the online classes first started, Smith admitted.

“People had to learn to engage virtually,” she said. “We were creating a whole new way of connecting.”

The goal is to make the person at home feel like they are part of the class. To that end, one of the spots in the class—person No. 7, if you’re into details—is replaced by a video camera.

“You’re just one of the people in the class, where 30 other people sweat with you,” Beste said.

There is also much more flexibility in finding a class that fits into a person’s schedule. All of the more than 150 Life Time clubs across the country are linked to the same web page, which means a member can tune into a class from the East Coast as early as 4:30 a.m. Twin Cities time or one from the West Coast as late as 8 p.m. The club from which each class originates and the name of the instructor also are listed.

“You can take a class from your favorite instructor or try something new,” Beste said. “You can shop locations. You can shop instructors. You can look for a time and format that works for you.”

What to know about youth summer camps during COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released guidelines to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection at youth summer camp. But what do those guidelines mean for families and children who look forward to the ritual of attending overnight or day summer camp?

“There not one strategy that’s going to completely eliminate risk. But using multiple strategies can reduce the risk for everyone who’s attending,” says Dr. Nipunie Rajapakse, a pediatric infectious diseases physician.

Some of the strategies include trying to limit the size of the camp as much as possible so that it’s a smaller group of children — maybe with one camp counselor or supervisor rather than having large groups of children mixing.

“Testing prior to attending camp one to three days before camp starts is another strategy that can help reduce the risk of someone coming to the camp who’s infected and going on to transmit to others,” says Dr. Ra-

japakse. “And, certainly, if anyone is feeling ill or having symptoms in any way, they should not be attending.”

Masking

“The great thing about summer camps is that most of the activities have been outdoors. And we know that outdoors presents much lower risk of transmission. For indoor settings, masking is encouraged, as well as adhering to the physical distancing recommendations to further reduce the risk of transmission,” Dr. Rajapakse says.

High-risk activities

“Certain activities in camps can pose more high-risks. Those include eating meals together. These are especially times where people really need to adhere to the physical distancing recommendations since you can’t be masked, obviously, while you’re eating. Additional kind of supervision and education for kids around those times is going to be important. And keeping most activities

to the outdoors as much as possible is also one of the other recommended strategies.”

Considerations

Dr. Rajapakse says each situation for a family and child will be unique. Taking stock of who is in your family and who is at high risk for illness is an important consideration. “If you have a healthy child who doesn’t have any known risk factors for more severe illness, then, certainly, that might be a lower-risk situation to send your child to camp. Whereas if you have a child who has underlying health conditions, who may be at a higher risk for illness, if they were to get infected, it might not be the best situation to send them into a camp type or group-type setting.”

Gather information about the camp’s safety protocols and how they plan to ensure a safe experience for your child.

“It’s also important to understand what the camp is doing, what precautions they are putting in place, what



Gathering information about a summer camp’s safety protocols and how they plan to ensure a safe experience for your child can help make decisions easier.

guidance your local public health organizations have given them and how closely they’re (the camp) planning to follow those instructions. (This information) can help you feel a bit more comfortable, as well, in making a decision,” explains Dr. Rajapakse.

“We know that some kids have really struggled this past year with mental health issues, feelings of isolation, anxiety, depression and, certainly, for them, being able to return to an activity like going to

a summer camp—if that’s something that they really enjoyed in the past—may make a big difference to their well-being over the summer,” says Dr. Rajapakse. (*Mayo Clinic News Network*)

Information in this post was accurate at the time of its posting. Due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, scientific understanding, along with guidelines and recommendations, may have changed since the original publication date.

Life & Style

'School of Rock' actor Kevin Clark killed in bike accident

CHICAGO (AP)—Kevin Clark, who played drummer Freddy "Spazzy McGee" Jones in the 2003 movie "School of Rock" with Jack Black, was killed when he was struck by a car while riding his bicycle along a Chicago street early Wednesday.

Police said Clark, 32, was struck after running a red light in the city's Avondale neighborhood. Clark was riding east

on Logan Boulevard when he was struck by a vehicle heading south on Western Avenue, a witness and the driver both told responding officers, according to a Chicago Police Department crash report.

Authorities say emergency responders found Clark partially under the car. Clark was taken in critical condition to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, where he

was pronounced dead a short time later. Authorities say the 20-year-old woman driving the car was issued several citations, but didn't give additional information.

After starring in "School of Rock" with Black, Clark continued pursuing drumming. Most recently, he played in the band Jess Bess & The Intentions, which made its debut performance Saturday at Leg-

endary Wooden Nickel in the Chicago suburb of Highwood.

In a tweet, Black called Clark's death devastating and that he was heartbroken that it

came too soon.

"Sending love to his family and the whole School of Rock community," Black wrote.

In interviews, Clark said he

landed his only movie role by responding to an ad in a local newspaper looking for adolescents who can play drums, keyboards and guitar.

Bill Cosby refuses sex offender program, so is denied parole

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Actor Bill Cosby won't be paroled this year after refusing to participate in sex offender programs during his nearly three years in state prison in Pennsylvania.

The 83-year-old Cosby has long said he would resist the treatment programs and refuse to acknowledge wrongdoing even if it means serving the full 10-year sentence. This is the first year he was eligible for parole under the three- to

10-year sentence handed down after his 2018 conviction.

Cosby spokesperson Andrew Wyatt called the decision "appalling" and said Cosby "vehemently proclaims his innocence."

Cosby meanwhile hopes the state Supreme Court, which heard his appeal in December, will reverse his conviction in the first celebrity trial of the #MeToo era.



Cosby

Cosby's lawyers say the trial was flawed because five other accusers were allowed to testify to support the sexual assault complaint filed by a former Temple University basketball team manager. They

also say the judge should not have let the jury hear Cosby's damaging testimony from accuser Andrea Constand's related civil suit.

Fractured fairy tale musical to use Britney Spears music

NEW YORK (AP)—Plans are afoot to put some old hit songs by Britney Spears into a stage musical about woke princesses, and the hope is that the result isn't "Toxic."

The Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, D.C. announced Thursday that it will stage "Once Upon a One More Time," featuring Spears' tunes, including "Oops!... I Did It Again," "Lucky," "Stronger" and "Toxic."

The musical will have an



Spears

original story written by Jon Hartmere about classic fairy tale princesses—Cinderella, Snow White and Little Mermaid, among them—who are transformed after reading "The Feminine Mystique," a landmark feminist text.

"Once Upon a One More Time" begins performances at Sidney Harman Hall on Nov. 29. It represents a significant pivot for The Shakespeare Theatre Company, known for its more stately offerings.

The temptation to use already proven, popular songs to fuel a musical is an old one and on Broadway has lately led to shows with music from The Temptations, The Go Go's, Tina Turner and Alanis Morissette.

Spears has been under the spotlight lately after the recent FX and Hulu documentary "The New York Times Presents: Framing Britney" looked at the circumstances that led to the establishment of her conservatorship in 2008 and has spurred sympathy for the singer.

Stephen Hawking's archive, office acquired for UK public

LONDON (AP)—London's Science Museum and the Cambridge University library said Wednesday they have acquired a large collection of items belonging to late physicist Stephen Hawking, from his personalized wheelchairs to landmark papers on theoretical physics and his

scripts from his appearance on "The Simpsons."

The entire contents of Hawking's office at Cambridge—including his communications equipment, memorabilia, bets he made on scientific debates and office furniture—will be preserved

as part of the collection belonging to the Science Museum Group.

Hawking occupied the office at the university's department of applied mathematics and theoretical physics from 2002 until shortly before his death in 2018.

Duchess of Cambridge 'hugely grateful' for 1st vaccine dose

LONDON (AP)—The Duchess of Cambridge has received her first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine as Britain extends its inoculation program to younger people.

Kate, the 39-year-old wife of Prince William, received her shot at London's Science Museum, a mass vaccination center near the couple's home at Kensington Palace, according to a photo posted on their Twitter feed. She got vaccinated a few weeks after her husband.

"I'm hugely grateful to everyone who is playing a part in the rollout—thank you for everything you are doing," the duchess said in a tweet posted Saturday.

Britain this week extended its COVID-19 vaccination program to everyone over the age of 30. The program has been gradually expanded to progressively younger age groups since it began in early December, and more than 70% of adults have already received at least one dose.



KENSINGTON PALACE VIA AP

In this photo released by Kensington Palace on Saturday, May 29, 2021, Britain's Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge receives her coronavirus vaccine at London's Science Museum on Friday.

Other members of the royal family, including Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles, have publicized their vaccine appointments to encourage people to get shots.

Mother feels betrayed when son wants to live with ex

DEAR ABBY: My ex-husband and I have two sons together who are 14 and 16. I have always kept things amicable for the kids' sake, but it came at a high price. I took a lot less in the divorce than I was legally entitled to because he threatened that we "would not have a good relationship." I didn't want the kids to suffer and, since they were going to live with me, I thought that was the most important thing, so I caved.

The kids have no idea what I gave up in order to keep the peace. We've always spoken kindly about each other in front of them. Now that one of my sons is older, he wants to live with his dad because he feels he missed out on that relationship growing up.

How do I not feel resentful that he wants to live with the person who was so emotionally abusive during our marriage and divorce? I sacrificed a lot for this harmony, and now it almost feels like I did it for nothing. Part of me wants to tell my son how he acted, but I know that wouldn't be right. Any suggestions?

KEPT THE PEACE IN ILLINOIS

DEAR KEPT THE PEACE: Yes. I "suggest" you continue taking the high road and resist the urge to trash your ex. Don't resent your son's decision, because he may have no idea how his father treated you. Your son is likely to get not only an eyeful but also an earful while he stays with his dad. Leopards don't usually change their spots, and emotionally

abusive people tend to act out with anyone they perceive to be defenseless. Remain in close contact with your son. If the pattern holds true, he may be back before you know it.

DEAR ABBY: Ten years ago, one of my oldest/dearest friends, "Wanda," got a divorce. Her husband, "Tex," cheated on her and left her. Tex happens to be my husband's oldest/dearest friend. We met at their wedding. Tex is now being remarried (to the woman he cheated on my friend with), and my husband and I are invited to the wedding. Wanda says I "cannot go to that wedding" and that she would never do this to me if the situation were reversed. She's still extremely angry at her ex.

My husband wants to go, and he wants me there with him (it is out of state). He says we are a "package deal." I am now stuck in the middle. Do I end a 37-year friendship and go to the wedding? Or do I disappoint my husband? He has always been there for me and goes to all my events with my friends.

TORN IN NEW YORK

DEAR TORN: Remind Wanda that Tex is your husband's oldest friend, and your husband intends to attend that wedding. Tell her that as much as you sympathize with her feelings, your husband wants you there with him because "We are a package deal," and you do not intend to disappoint him. She should not be using you in an attempt

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

to punish her cheating ex-husband, which would probably be lost on him anyway. It's time for her to grow up, live her own life and move on.

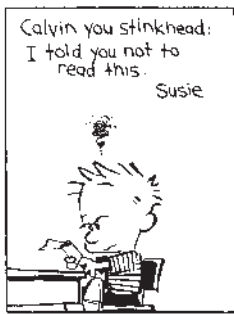
DEAR READERS: Along with the millions of Americans who are observing this Memorial Day, I add my prayer of thanks for those courageous men and women who have sacrificed their lives in service to our country. May they rest in peace.
LOVE, ABBY

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

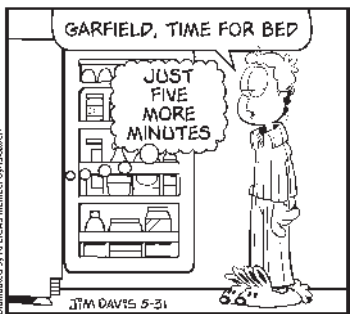
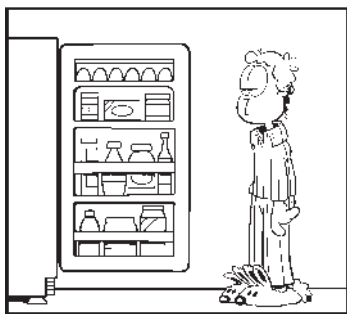
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



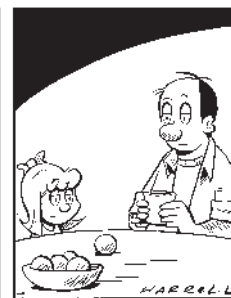
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By Jim Davis



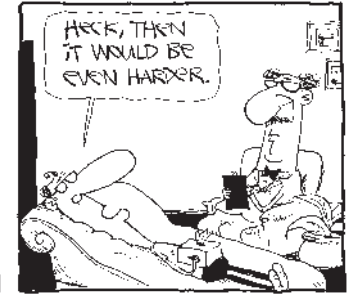
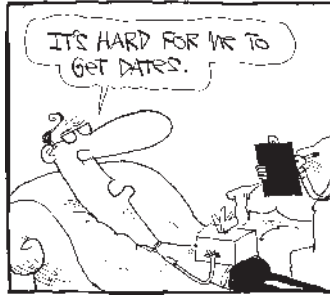
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Dyeing vessel
4 Monastery figure
9 Swelled head
12 Altar vow
13 Ballroom dance
14 Attorney's field
15 Canadian flag symbol
17 Bovary's title (Abbr.)
18 Shoe width
19 Mouthed off to
21 Sun Bowl city
24 Passion
25 Chou En-
26 Towboat
28 T-shirt size
31 Goes astray
33 Frank McCourt memoir
35 Withstand
36 Bothered

DOWN

1 Pep
2 Oklahoma city
3 Surpass
4 Least confined
5 Eliminate
6 "— Mine" (Beatles song)
7 Shame star
8 Tennis star
9 Night-marish address
10 Up for it
11 Unpaid
16 Salonga of "Miss Saigon"
20 Swedish auto
21 Super-model
22 Cannes milk
23 Common car
27 PX patrons
29 Deep cut
30 Gaelic prov.
32 Canadian prov.
34 Ask for
37 Leg-endary "Jeopardy!" host
39 Snacks (on)
42 Disparaging
44 LAPD alert
45 Big gulp
46 Actress
50 Vitamin stat
51 List-ending abbr.
52 PC key
53 "Toy Story" dinosaur

Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 05/31

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ellen Wong, 37; Colin Farrell, 45; Brooke Shields, 56; Clint Eastwood, 91.

Happy Birthday: Stick to the facts, consider the possibilities and size up situations with an open mind. Expand your horizons to fulfill your dreams. Don't hesitate or let others stand between you and what you are trying to accomplish. A positive attitude and putting in the time and effort required to reach your destination will help you excel. Personal gain is within reach. Your numbers are 9, 12, 23, 27, 32, 37, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Rely on the past to help you sort out what to do next. An opportunity will be revealed in conversation with someone who shares your interests and qualifications. An in-depth discussion will lead to an unusual offer. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Listen, and you'll decipher what's best for you. Don't follow someone if it risks your position or security. Follow the path that leads to a better future. Trust in your judgment and the experience you have acquired along the way. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Concentrate on what you are trying to achieve and forgo what's going on around you. Distractions will hold you back. Put more emphasis on using your knowledge and skills to achieve personal growth and a better future. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Spend only what's necessary. Emotional purchases will not live up to your expectations. Helping out someone who leans on you

will lead to ongoing expenses. Honesty is the best policy when dealing with emotional, medical and financial matters. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be drawn to people and organizations that share your sentiments. Be clear regarding what you can contribute; it will help you avoid being pressured to spend more time or money than you can afford. Firm up your offer, and embrace self-improvement. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Consider what's best for you before you make a move. An opportunity someone offers will have unexpected circumstances with it. Take time to go over every detail before you take on something you may not be fully qualified to handle. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll pick up valuable information if you sit back and let others talk. Grab on to something that resonates with you, and verify the information before you proceed. Personal growth and physical, emotional and mental improvements can be made. Romance is in the stars. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make your money stretch. Search for entertaining ways to use your attributes to help you get ahead. Don't let a change at home or to the way you live put a damper on your day. Look for the positive in everyone and everything. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Open up about the way you feel, what you want and how you plan to get ahead. Keep life simple, money manageable and your conscience clear. Be truthful, and speak out when someone of-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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fers false information or pretenses. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Offer suggestions, but don't promise or commit to something you don't want to pursue. Your energy is best spent on accomplishments that will help you get ahead. Treat partnerships with courtesy and respect to avoid an emotional turn of events. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep your emotions hidden 'til you gather facts. It's important to be informed before you take on a situation that can change your relationship with a friend or relative. Stick close to home, and make changes that add to your comfort. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Watch how others handle matters; it will give you an idea how you will be treated when in a similar situation. Observation is in your best interest, along with secrecy and taking the time to develop your strategy all by yourself. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are innovative, helpful and passionate. You are flexible and proactive.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		3	9		7	5		
	9		8	1	2		4	
		1				9		
1	3					7	9	
	5			7		2		
4	8					5	6	
		8				2		
	7		3	8	9		1	
		9	4		6	8		

Difficulty Level ★

5/31

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

9	8	7	5	1	6	4	3	2
4	2	3	8	9	7	5	6	1
1	6	5	3	2	4	9	7	8
3	1	6	9	5	2	7	8	4
5	4	8	6	7	1	3	2	9
7	9	2	4	3	8	6	1	5
8	3	9	1	6	5	2	4	7
6	7	1	2	4	9	8	5	3
2	5	4	7	8	3	1	9	6

Difficulty Level: ★★★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle: — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

I WANT A GETAWAY!

Solution: 9 letters

S N E H T A E K A T P Y G E R
T S A O C L R M Y K O N O S U
K M S I T O L V M I A M I I S
T R R S Y H C A E B R T E U S
M F A W D O D H K N E A M R I
A C E M D N D A I E I M F C A
U N N F N N A N O L E C R A B
I S A U R E A L A R E C E D S
O A I E C A D L R L M Y H N A
C R B R C N N N I E R K A E I
I S E U A O A C A A Z O W K C
X T A L D P L C E P H T A E U
E D G N U R E P Y L A T I E L
M N O A D E C E E R G J I W T
E L M S P A I N I R O T N A S

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Africa, Athens, Barcelona, Beach, Cancun, Castle, Chile, Coast, Crete, Cruise, Denmark, Dubai, Egypt, England, France, Greece, Hawaii, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Lake, London, Maui, Mexico, Miami, Mykonos, New York, Ocean, Orlando, Paris, Peru, Road, Rome, Russia, Safari, Sand, Santorini, Site, Spain, St. Lucia, Summer, Switzerland, Thailand, Tokyo, Venice, Weekend
Last Friday's Answer: Virginia Woolf
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Bucks oust Heat 120-103, roll into Round 2



MIAMI (AP)—There was no raucous celebration. No histrionics, no big on-court party when the final horn sounded and Milwaukee had officially vanquished its playoff loss to Miami from last season.

Put simply, the Bucks expected to win.

And the last four games showed exactly why.

The Bucks-Heat rematch was a mismatch, and Milwaukee became the first team to advance in this season's playoffs by beating Miami 120-103 on Saturday to complete a 4-0 first-round sweep. Brook Lopez scored 25 points, Bryn Forbes scored 22 and Giannis Antetokounmpo had a triple-double — 20 points, 12 rebounds and 15 assists—for Milwaukee.

"Obviously, it's a great moment for us and winning 4-0, beating the team that beat us last year, feels good," Antetokounmpo said. "But at the end of the day, we've got a long way to go."

Khris Middleton had 20, Bobby Portis 13 and Jrue Holiday 11 for Milwaukee, which outscored Miami by 24 in the second half.

Bam Adebayo scored 20 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for Miami, which got 18 points from Kendrick Nunn, 14 from Tyler Herro, 13 from Goran Dragic and a triple-double — 12 points, 10 rebounds, 10 assists — from Jimmy Butler.

"We tip our hat to the Bucks' organization," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

"They were a great team last year and they improved on that. Whether we were a part of that improvement or not, it's irrelevant. They took their game collectively to another level. They beat us for a reason."

The Heat became the second team in this playoff format to go from sweeping in the first round one year to being swept in the first round the next. The only other team to endure that was the then-New Jersey Nets, who swept New York in 2004 and lost 4-0 to Miami in 2005.

Once Milwaukee grabbed the first three games, history said the result was inevitable. NBA teams with 3-0 series leads are now 141-0 all-time in those matchups, with these Bucks becoming the 88th of those teams to finish off matters with a sweep.

Their reward: a week off, at least.

The third-seeded Bucks won't play again until at least next Saturday. Their East semifinals series against either second-seeded Brooklyn or seventh-seeded Boston will start on June 5 if the Nets advance in five games; in any other scenario, the Bucks will next play on June 7.

"We've got a long ways to go," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "It's the first round of the playoffs. I think there's got to be humility, a humbleness, an attitude or a mindset to get better. We've advanced in the first round. Whoever we play next, we've got to have the similar focus, a similar edge, willingness to play with each other, play together, all the



things that we just did. Means nothing if we don't keep doing it going forward."

After a pair of Milwaukee romps by a combined 63 points in Games 2 and 3, this one immediately took on a different feel.

The Heat—who led 9-2 shortly after the start of Game 1 and hadn't enjoyed even that much of a margin in the last 136 minutes and 8 seconds of basketball leading into the start of Game 4 — got the early jump. A pair of free throws by Duncan Robinson with 3:48 left in the opening quarter put Miami up 20-12, its biggest lead of the series, and the Heat margin would eventually grow to as much as 12 in the first half.

Yet there were signs that the Bucks had to like: Antetokounmpo was 1 for 7 with three fouls in the first half, Milwaukee had only two points off the

first seven Heat turnovers, and despite all that, Miami's lead was merely 64-57 at the break.

And, sure enough, the third quarter was all Milwaukee.

"We went out there and competed as hard as possible," Antetokounmpo said. "Obviously, they made it very, very tough for us but we kept our composure."

The Heat couldn't make anything; they shot 8 for 24 in the quarter. Bobby Portis' 3-pointer late in the third put Milwaukee up by 12, and the lead was 91-85 going into the fourth. Before long, the game was decided, and with that, so was the series.

"Just some missed shots here and there," Butler said. "I think they did a great job. I think you just kind of leave it at that."

76ers 132, Wizards 103
In Washington, Joel Embiid

set a career playoff high with 36 points and Philadelphia routed Washington to take a 3-0 series lead.

Embiid scored 25 points in the first half, and finished 14 of 18 from the floor in 28 minutes before resting the entire fourth quarter. The top-seeded 76ers will go for the sweep in Game 4 on Monday.

Russell Westbrook had 26 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists for a triple-double for Washington after being a game-time decision because of a sprained right ankle. Bradley Beal added 25 points.

Jazz 121, Grizzlies 111

In Memphis, Tenn., Donovan Mitchell scored 10 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter and top-seeded Utah beat Memphis to take a 2-1 series lead.

Mike Conley, in Memphis where he started his career,

matched his regular-season and playoff career highs with seven 3-pointers and finished with 27 points.

Rudy Gobert had 15 points and 14 rebounds, Bojan Bogdanovic and Jordan Clarkson added 15 apiece, and Royce O'Neale had 12.

Game 4 is Monday night in Memphis.

Ja Morant led Memphis with 28 points, and Dillon Brooks had 27 before fouling out.

Trail Blazers 115, Nuggets 95

In Portland, Ore., Norman Powell matched his career playoff high with 29 points and Portland beat Denver in Game 4 to even the series.

Powell made four 3-points and was 11 of 15 from the floor, and CJ McCollum added 21 points for the sixth-seeded Trail Blazers.

Game 5 is Tuesday night in Denver.

Nikola Jokic finished with 16 points and nine rebounds for third-seeded Denver before sitting out the final quarter.

Portland star Damian Lillard was 1 for 10 from the field but finished with 10 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds. He sat out the fourth quarter.

Mark Eaton, the 7-foot-4 shot-blocking king who twice was the NBA's defensive player of the year during a career spent entirely with the Utah Jazz, has died. He was 64.

The team announced his death Saturday.

Eaton left his home for a bike ride Friday night in Summit County, Utah, and shortly thereafter someone called 911 to report after seeing him lying on a roadway and unconscious. Eaton was taken to a hospital where he later died.

The team, citing county officials who investigated, said "there is no reason to believe a vehicle was involved in the incident."

The Jazz described him in a statement as an "enduring figure in our franchise history" who had a "significant impact in the community after his basketball career."

Utah coach Quin Snyder said Saturday night before Game 3 in Memphis that the team's thoughts and prayers go out to Eaton's wife.

"Mark was someone that was a friend, and I think a

Mark Eaton, shot-blocking king and Jazz great, dies at 64

friend who a lot of us, in his relationship with Rudy Gobert I think is emblematic of who he was and his ability to listen," Snyder said. "And then to offer counsel and support was something that was really unique, and obviously we'll miss him."

The center led the league in blocks per game four times and his average of 5.6 per contest in 1984-85 remains the highest average since the NBA started officially tracking that statistic.

Eaton's career blocks average of 3.51 per game is the best in NBA history, and his career happened almost by accident. He was working as an auto mechanic in 1977 when a community college basketball coach persuaded him to enroll. From there, he went to UCLA, and his stint with the Jazz followed.

"I had an unusual background," Eaton said for a story published on the Jazz web site two years ago. "It's an unlikely story to be sure. I

basically came into the NBA with two years of junior college experience and sat on the bench at UCLA for two years. And Frank Layden gave me a chance and the team was in a space where they could afford to let me make some mistakes out there and get my feet underneath me. It worked out well for both of us."

Eaton had been, among other things, a restaurateur and motivational speaker in his retirement. In recent years, he served as a mentor to Utah center Rudy Gobert — the only other player in Jazz history to win the defensive player of the year award.

"He was so impressive," longtime NBA broadcaster Mike Inglis, now the radio voice of the Miami Heat, said Saturday. "I used to call him the human condominium complex. He was something else on defense, let me tell you."

Eaton's death came days after he was in Chicago to be part of the celebration for his

friend Joe West, who broke baseball's umpiring record by working his 5,376th regular-season game Tuesday night.

His 11 playing seasons with the Jazz are third most in team history, behind longtime Utah cornerstones Karl Malone and John Stockton. His durability was noteworthy, with him once appearing in 338 consecutive games. He finished with career averages of 6.0 points and 7.9 rebounds.

But his best skill was defending the rim, and once told a story about how Wilt Chamberlain offered him advice about his career. He incorporate the tale into a motivational speech, telling others that Rule No. 1 for success is to "know your job."

"Wilt grabbed me by the arm, took me out on the floor, positioned me right in front of the basket. He said, 'You see this basket? Your job is to stop players from getting there. Your job is to make them miss their shot, get the rebound,

throw it up to the guard, let them go down the other end and score and your job is to cruise up to half-court and see what's going on,'" Eaton said.

"When Wilt shared that with me, everything changed. I understood what I needed to do," Eaton said. "I understood what I could be great at. Wilt showed me what my job was and how doing what I did would benefit my team."

Eaton also served as an officer in the National Basketball Players Association, and the union released a statement Saturday saying he would be missed.

"It may be cliched, but it's true: Mark Eaton was a giant, in every sense of the word," the NBPA statement said. "A longtime member of the NBPA Executive Committee right through his retirement from the league in 1994, Mark served his colleagues with grace and strength, and continued to watch over them through his service for the Retired Play-

ers Association. His imposing physical presence made a delightful match with his warm and thoughtful manner."

Eaton's No. 53 was one of the first jerseys retired by the Jazz. He was the defensive player of the year in 1984-85 and 1988-89, was a five-time All-Defensive team selection — three first-team nods, two second-team picks — and was an All-Star in 1989.

He was taken with the 107th overall pick by Phoenix in the 1979 draft, then drafted again at No. 72 overall by Utah in 1982. And he never left; his last game was in 1993, but back problems ended his career and he retired in September 1994.

"It has been a great ride, but life does have a way of moving on and I must move on with it," Eaton wrote in a column for The Salt Lake Tribune in which he announced his retirement. "Thank you for letting me be a part of your life and community. I'll be around."

True to his word, Eaton remained a Utah mainstay for the rest of his life.

Pederson helps Cubs pound Reds 10-2 for 6th straight win



CHICAGO
(AP)—Joc Pederson, Ian

Happ and Eric Sogard each drove in two runs, and the Chicago Cubs beat the Cincinnati Reds 10-2 on Saturday for their season-high sixth consecutive victory.

Rafael Ortega homered and Kris Bryant had a run-scoring single for Chicago, which improved to 18-7 this month. It's the most wins for the team in May since it went 18-10 in 2016.

The 13-hit attack for the Cubs helped the team overcome the loss of David Bote, who separated his left shoulder on a slide into second in the fourth. Manager David Ross said Bote will get some tests done in the next couple days.

Chicago already was without position players Anthony Rizzo, Jason Heyward, Nico Hoerner, Matt Duffy and Jake Marisnick due to injuries. But it still moved a season-high seven games over .500 at 29-22.

"Unfortunately we have had some injuries, but we have guys stepping up, guys ready, who come in and fill the job," Sogard said. "That's why we're continuing to win."

Cincinnati right-hander Luis Castillo (1-8) pitched five-plus innings of four-run ball in his seventh straight loss. Castillo, who started on opening day, became the first pitcher to drop seven consecutive decisions or starts for the Reds since Homer Bailey lost seven straight starts in 2018.

"I'm not frustrated. I can't be," Castillo said through a translator. "Yeah, it's just another bad day, but I know that everything will change here soon."

The game was tied at 2 before Chicago pushed across four runs in the sixth, helped by four walks. Sogard reached on a bases-loaded walk against Amir Garrett before Pederson's two-run single lifted the Cubs to a 5-2 lead. Bryant added an RBI single, extending his hitting streak to 11 games.

"That inning, that was the game," Reds manager David Bell said.

Ortega went deep in the seventh, reaching the basket in right on a windy, cool day at Wrigley Field. It was Ortega's first homer since Sept. 29, 2019, for Atlanta.

"I think that the first thing that I thought of once I hit that home run and was rounding the bases was, wow, hitting a home run here at Wrigley Field in front of those fans, it was just really exciting," Ortega said through a translator. Nick Castellanos doubled in the eighth, extending his hitting streak to 15 games, but Cincinnati finished with just five hits in its third loss in four games. It dropped to 10-15 in



Chicago Cubs' Joc Pederson hits a two-run single during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds in Chicago, Saturday, May 29, 2021.

May.

Chicago jumped in front with two unearned runs in the second, taking advantage of some shaky defense by Cincinnati, and Zach Davies pitched shutout ball into the sixth. But Davies departed after Eugenio Suárez's leadoff walk, and the Reds capitalized.

Two more walks loaded the bases for Tyler Stephenson, who lined a tying two-run double into right field.

Before Stephenson's hit against Keegan Thompson (3-1), the Cubs bullpen had gone a franchise-record 38 1/3 innings without allowing an earned run.

Brewers 4, Nationals 1 Brewers 6, Nationals 2

In Washington, Luis Urias went 3 for 3 with two RBIs, including the tiebreaking double in a four-run sixth inning, and the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Washington Nationals 6-2 on Saturday night to sweep a split doubleheader.

Leadoff batter Kolten Wong also had three hits and drove in two runs for the Brewers in the nightcap. Lorenzo Cain was 3 for 3 and scored twice.

Freddy Peralta pitched his first major league complete game in the opener, going all seven innings in a 4-1 victory. Milwaukee (27-25) is two games over .500 for the first time since May 13.

"A very good day," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said.

The Nationals dropped to 21-27 and are last in the NL East following a three-game losing streak. Washington is 0-5 in seven-inning games this season after Friday's rainout led to the day-night doubleheader.

"We hate the way we are playing," shortstop Trea Turner

said. "We want to play better. We know we can play better. But it's all about perspective. What we've done so far isn't going to help us (Sunday)."

Pirates 7, Rockies 0 Pirates 7, Rockies 0

In Pittsburgh, Mitch Keller and the Pittsburgh bullpen finished off a pair of seven-inning shutouts, and the Pirates blanked the Colorado Rockies 4-0 to sweep a doubleheader Saturday.

After JT Brubaker excelled to win the opener 7-0 and end Pittsburgh's six-game losing streak, Keller was equally impressive.

"Just putting a really big focus on attacking," Keller said. "Letting them kind of get themselves out, and just putting the ball in their court. ... Just kind of attacking the zone and getting after it."

The Pirates shut out a team in both games of a doubleheader for the first time since Oct. 3, 1976, against the St. Louis Cardinals.

"It was nice to see Mitch come out and attack the zone," manager Derek Shelton said. "Kind of just coupled off what (Brubaker) did in Game 1. But we played well today, it was really nice. ... When the message is very similar, which it is for those two guys, it can lead into it and I thought both of them did a nice job."

Pittsburgh pitchers combined to hold Colorado to just six total hits. The Rockies have lost five in a row.

Twins 6, Royals 5

In Minneapolis, rookie Trevor Larnach homered and Rob Refsnyder drove in two runs as Minnesota hung on to beat Kansas City.

Nelson Cruz had an RBI

double in the first inning that drove in Josh Donaldson for a notable run — the 2 millionth scored in Major League Baseball history. Donaldson has accounted for 685 of the 2 million runs in major league history. The first run ever recorded was on April 22, 1876, by Tim McGinley of the Boston Red Stockings. Bob Watson was credited with the 1 millionth run, scored for the Houston Astros on May 4, 1975.

White Sox 7, Orioles 3 White Sox 4, Orioles 1

In Chicago, Billy Hamilton hit a solo home run, Jose Abreu had a two-run homer, and Lance Lynn pitched five scoreless innings to help Chicago complete a doubleheader sweep of Baltimore in Game 2.

In the opener, Jake Lamb and Yoán Moncada homered, with Abreu driving in three runs.

Chicago has won five of its last six games after getting swept by the New York Yankees last weekend.

Even with major injuries to Eloy Jiménez and Luis Robert the White Sox are a season-high 11 games over .500. They have received major contributions from reserves such as Hamilton and Lamb during this stretch.

Angels 4, Athletics 0

In Oakland, Calif., Shohei Ohtani hit a key two-run single, Alex Cobb struck out eight over seven scoreless innings to win consecutive starts for the first time this season, and Los Angeles beat Oakland.

Cobb (3-2) allowed three hits and walked two facing Oakland for the first time since 2018 while with Baltimore. He improved to 5-3 over 11

career starts against the A's.

Tigers 6, Yankees 1

In Detroit, Jonathan Schoop homered and Spencer Turnbull pitched well into the sixth inning as Detroit beat New York.

Turnbull (4-2) allowed one run on three hits and three walks in 5 2/3 innings. He struck out six to improve to 3-0 with a 1.33 ERA in his past four starts, including a no-hitter against the Seattle Mariners.

Rays 5, Phillies 3

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Austin Meadows drove in his third run on a tiebreaking RBI infield single during a two-run eighth inning as Tampa Bay won for the 14th time in 15 games.

Randy Arozarena had a leadoff infield single in the eighth and advanced to third on a wild pitch by Sam Coonrod (0-2). After Yandy Díaz was intentionally walked with one out, Meadows made it 4-3 with his hit off José Alvarado.

Red Sox 3, Marlins 1

In Boston, Playing its first game in a rejuvenated Fenway Park since the state dropped limits on crowds during the coronavirus pandemic, Nathan Eovaldi went 5 1/3 scoreless innings as Boston beat Miami.

Bobby Dalbec, Kevin Plawecki and Hunter Renfroe each had an RBI single for Boston, which won for the seventh time in nine games and posted its ninth straight home victory over the Marlins.

Padres 11, Astros 8 (12 innings)

In Houston, Fernando Tatis Jr. launched a monstrous, three-run homer with two outs in

the ninth inning to tie it, Wil Myers hit a three-run drive in the 12th and San Diego beat Houston.

A day after the Padres erupted for seven runs in the 11th inning, they played their fourth straight extra-inning game, going 3-1 in that span.

San Diego improved to an MLB-best 8-0 in interleague play this year. Houston has lost six of seven overall.

Cardinals 7, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Tyler O'Neill can do no wrong for the St. Louis Cardinals these days.

On the other side of the field, the Arizona Diamondbacks can't seem to do anything right.

O'Neill homered for a third straight game, Yadier Molina had three RBIs and the Cardinals won 7-4 on Saturday night over the Diamondbacks, who have lost 13 games in a row.

The Diamondbacks are stuck in their longest losing streak since dropping a franchise-record 14 consecutive games in 2004. Arizona lost 111 games that season, and this year is quickly trending in a similar direction. The team's 18-35 record is the worst in the National League.

O'Neill has been on a roll since Thursday, when he returned from a stint on the 10-day injured list due to a fracture in his left middle finger. The 25-year-old outfielder added two doubles and finished with three RBIs. He also made a diving catch in left that saved a run in the fourth inning, which impressed St. Louis starter Adam Wainwright.

Giants 11, Dodgers 6

In Los Angeles, Donovan Solano and Evan Longoria homered, Logan Webb pitched five sharp innings and the San Francisco Giants beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 11-6 on Saturday.

The Giants have won consecutive games at Dodger Stadium, scoring a combined 19 runs, after losing the first four in the season series.

Mike Yastrzemski hit two doubles and Wilmer Flores had three of San Francisco's 16 hits after being reinstated from the injured list before the game.

Webb (4-3) held the Dodgers to just one hit and one earned run. He struck out seven, walked none and retired the final 11 batters he faced.

Over 200 join MVA's Walk for Tourism 5K



MVA

Over 200 participants joined the Marianas Visitors Authority's Walk for Tourism 5K on May 22, 2021, in Susupe, Saipan. The event was held in celebration of Tourism Month.

The Marianas Visitors Authority's Walk for Tourism 5K last May 22 on Saipan drew over 200 participants in celebration

of The Marianas' primary economic driver.

Participants, many dressed as tourists, began showing up

before 6am at Kilili Beach Park to register before the walk started at 7am. The first 100 registrants received a

2021 Tourism Month T-shirt.

"The turnout for the Walk for Tourism 5K was both strong and high-energy, and we'd like to thank all the businesses and individuals who participated in showing their support and love for the industry," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "The walk was a great opportunity to celebrate all that tourism means to the Marianas community and share encouragement and excitement about the gradual return of the industry."

Winning first place and \$100 for best tourist costume was Laurina Boyer, taking selfies while dressed in an island-wear wraparound and "driving" in a hand-crafted pink convertible. Second place and \$75 went to the



MVA

The Walk for Tourism 5K was held along the Saipan Beach Pathway from Kilili Beach Park to Quartermaster Road and back.



MVA

Participants of the Walk for Tourism 5K were invited to dress as tourists for a chance to win cash prizes.

trio of Takashi Nazuka, Noriko Baidya, and Yoichi Nonogaki, all walking in SCUBA diving gear. Third place and \$50 went to Sildrey Verloria, dressed as a classic tourist.

IShop donated sunscreen and Herbalife donated Herbal Protein Shakes in support of the event.

The course followed the Saipan Beach Pathway beginning at Minachom Atdao Pavilion to the turnaround point at Quartermaster Road

and back. COVID-19 health protocols were implemented, including temperature checks and collection of contact information.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/VisitTheMarianas or The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com/The-Marianas-Calendar or contact MVA Community Projects Specialist Jack Aranda at 1.670.664.3200/lorcommunityprojects@mymarianas.com. (PR)

CNMI

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what we can do in this short amount of time that we have before the Pacific Games but I'm also hoping we continue to build and develop weightlifting even when the games are done. This is just the beginning," she said.

According to CNMI Weightlifting president John Davis, Barnhouse and Labausa were selected as the national coaches for their extensive experience in weightlifting both nationally and internationally. In addition, they both are certified coaches with USA Weightlifting.

"CNMI Weightlifting is pleased to announce the selection of national coaches David Barnhouse and Antonette Labausa. Both Barnhouse and Labausa are experienced

athletes, as well as coaches with certification from USA Weightlifting, the national governing body overseeing the sport of weightlifting in the United States," said Davis.

The pair will serve in these positions until December 2022.

Everyone interested in competing in weightlifting at the Pacific Mini Games must be a member in good standing with CNMI Weightlifting, must compete in at least two local level competitions, must be at least 15 years old, must produce a passport and/or proof of residency at the time of weigh-in at the Pacific Mini Games, and must be selected to the national team.

For more information, interested participants can contact Barnhouse at 789-7636 and Labausa can be contacted at 285-2286.

NMIBF

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Games, which will take place from July 25 to Aug. 5 in Majuro. Selection of the CNMI representatives to the Micro Games will be held mid-May.

"The long-term goal is to have a year-round national program in place and in return, we will select national team members for different competitions from the pool of players who are in the program. The system will allow continuity and consistency in our national team program," the NMIBF head added.

Before the open tryout, the NMIBF is hosting a meet-and-greet among the players and the federation's officials on June 5 at 8:30am at the Oleai Sports Complex grandstand. The NMIBF and Rangamar

will be explaining the different phases of the national team program in this weekend's meeting, while eligibility rules and other details related to the basketball competition in the Micro Games will be discussed once information is released by the organizers.

The CNMI has consistently fielded national basketball teams in the Micronesian Games. In the 2018 edition of the quadrennial event in Yap, the women's squad finished fifth after routing the host, 69-44, in the classification match. The men's crew also won their last game in the competition after downing Yap, 88-64, in the battle for seventh place.

For more information about the open tryouts, contact NMIBF at nmibasketballfederation@gmail.com. (PR)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	33	20	.623	
Boston	32	20	.615	½
New York	29	23	.558	3½
Toronto	26	24	.520	5½
Baltimore	17	35	.327	15½

Central Division

Chicago	31	20	.608	
Cleveland	27	22	.551	¾
Kansas City	24	26	.480	6½
Minnesota	21	30	.412	10
Detroit	21	31	.404	10½

West Division

Oakland	31	23	.574	
Houston	27	24	.529	2½
Seattle	26	27	.491	4½
Los Angeles	23	29	.442	7
Texas	22	32	.407	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	25	20	.556	
Philadelphia	25	27	.481	3½
Atlanta	24	26	.480	3½
Miami	24	28	.462	4½
Washington	21	27	.438	5½

Central Division

St. Louis	30	22	.577	
Chicago	29	22	.569	½
Milwaukee	27	25	.519	3
Cincinnati	22	28	.440	7
Pittsburgh	20	31	.392	9½

West Division

San Diego	34	19	.642	
San Francisco	32	20	.615	1½
Los Angeles	31	21	.596	2½
Colorado	19	34	.358	15
Arizona	18	35	.340	16

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROTA

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quite a nice bike so it helped me pick up a little bit of time on the bike portion but that was what I was most nervous about. There was a lot of really fast and experienced bikers out there. I think I held my own on the bike and it seems I picked up a little bit from there and on the run, I had a pretty strong run. The running, which I have background in, I felt was the easiest for me but it was at the end so it ended up being the hardest. For the swim, it wasn't so long I figured that if I stayed in the middle of the pack or in decent position I should be good," Inselmann said.

Overall, Inselmann said even though the event was exhausting, he had fun and enjoyed racing with members of the CNMI community.

"It was awesome and tons of fun. It was exhausting but a good community to participate with. I'm coming from Rota and we were very welcomed by the other athletes. I had a good race so that was nice," he said.

On top of the loads of fun he had, Inselmann said he was

able to achieve the goal he set for himself for the event, to push himself to the limits.

"I have an endurance athlete background and I just wanted to try something new and test my limits and see. I was mostly just going for the experience and testing my limits so it's was just ultimately to push myself to see what I could do," he said.

Inselmann, who runs, bikes, and swims weekly, said he prepared for the event by adding more of what he already does into his routine for a few weeks or so.

Inselmann also wanted to

thank all those who made the event possible and hopes to see similar events on Rota soon.

"I hope more events [like this] could happen on Rota. My appreciation to goes out to Ricky Castro and the association for putting on the event. It was well done and a lot of fun," he said.

Castro is the secretary general of the Triathlon Association of the CNMI, which organized the Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon.

Results for other categories will be published throughout the week.



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Jared Inselmann, second from the right, a Northern Marianas College instructor who resides on Rota, topped the Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon last weekend with the fastest time overall.



Bucks oust Heat
120-103, roll into
Round 2

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Over 200 join
MVA's Walk for
Tourism 5K

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Rota teacher tops 5150 Triathlon



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Rota resident Jared Inselmann crosses the finish line of last Saturday's Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Jared Inselmann, a Northern Marianas College instructor who resides on Rota, topped the Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon last weekend with the fastest time overall.

Inselmann was the first to cross the finish line of the 1.5-km swim, 40-km bike, and 10-km run after completing the race in just 2:24, unofficially. This was impressive given he was penalized mid-race and was held back a few minutes for a violation and still man-

aged to dominate the competition.

The kicker, Inselmann said this was the first triathlon he has ever participated in and wasn't even sure he won.

"This was my first triathlon. I didn't even know if I won the race or not because there were

teams out there as well," he said.

According to Inselmann, he only pieced together everything he needed for the event a day before the big race but that was because he flew in with the sole purpose of participating in the Aquathlon. "I live on Rota and just came out for the Aquathlon. I borrowed a bike and went over to the bike shop to get shorts just yesterday and so I just kind of pieced it together,"



When asked about the hardest part of his first triathlon, Inselmann said it was probably the bike portion. However, he added, thinking back, it was during the bike portion of the race that he ultimately gained a slight advantage over his opponents.

"I think the bike may have been the hardest. I borrowed

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CNMI Weightlifting begins recruitment for Mini Games

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

With the 2022 Pacific Mini Games a little over a year away, the CNMI Weightlifting Team has started to see interest from a handful of individuals.

According to Antonette Labausa, CNMI Weightlifting national coach for the upcoming Pacific Mini Games, although nothing has been set in stone yet, around eight individuals have already expressed their interest in participating in the 2022 Pacific Mini Games.

"We have a few athletes who have shown interest but nothing is official just yet I think there is about eight people who have shown interest including me and [co-coach] David Barnhouse," she said.

Labausa said recruitment

continues so anyone interested can reach out to her or Barnhouse to become part of the team, the catch, you must be committed and hardworking.



"Our training has always been a 11 year round and we are always training people however, officially starting as national coaches, we are currently in the process of looking to create our national team of hardworking and committed athletes to start training together," she said.

Labausa and Barnhouse were recently appointed as national coaches for the CNMI Weightlifting Team to represent the islands in the upcoming Mini Games which is a huge honor according to Labausa.

"I feel honored to be chosen as one of the national coaches. I am excited to see

See CNMI on Page 19

NMIBF to launch open tryout for national team program

The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation is taking a significant step toward structuring and strengthening its national team program by holding an open tryout for players wishing to don the colors of the CNMI in regional and international competitions.

NMIBF president James Lee said the open tryout for the national team program will be for both men's and women's players and will begin on June 8 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. This year's national program is divided into five phases with players on the pool vying for the right to represent The Marianas in various events, including the 2022 Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands.

"One of the NMIBF board's priorities for this season is to get the ball rolling for establishing a structure for our national team program. We want



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Eleina Santos, left, and Taz Deleon Guerrero, right, play defense on a Yap player during their match in the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap. The next Micro Games will be held in the Marshall Islands in 2022 with basketball included in the event's program.

to build a big pool of players, create a training program from them, and work on a selection process for our future national teams.

With that said, we are inviting players who wish to represent the CNMI in the 2022 Micro-



nesian Games and beyond to attend the open tryout starting next month," Lee said.

Open tryouts for the national team program will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 7pm to 8:30pm, while the women's crew will take

the 5:30pm to 7pm slot on the same days at the Ada Gym. National team program participants will also be scheduled to train at the Oleai Sports Complex oval every Saturday at 6am. The NMIBF may change the schedule and venue of the open tryout, as the Ada Gym will undergo major repairs this year.

NMIBF development officer and veteran coach Elias Rangamar will be conducting the open tryout, which will run until July 24. Up next for the national team program would be Phase 2, which will involve offseason training and will run for three months (from Aug. 1 to Oct. 31). Phase 3 is pre-season training from Nov. 1 to Feb. 28, while Phase 4 is on-season training scheduled from March 1 to June 30. Phase 5 will be the actual games in the Micronesian

See NMIBF on Page 19



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Antonette Labausa, CNMI Weightlifting Team coach for the upcoming Pacific Mini Games, trains during the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe last March.